

From: woodyswan@comcast.net
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:58:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dana Shkolny](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:16:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Dana Shkolny. Sent from my iPhone

Ps: I have copied my town meeting representative and neighbor Annie LaCourt.

From: [Laura Vecchione](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:07:07 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

I am an Arlington Heights resident who is already working with Belmont residents to oppose Belmont Hill School's horrendous plan to deforest a seven acre woodland a mile from Arlington. They plan to deforest to put in a parking lot and fuel depot.

Our world is in a climate crisis; we need to be planting and maintaining trees, not cutting them down! Furthermore, all of this deforestation will lead to more coyotes, and Arlington has already reported coyote attacks. Arlington already has a scarcity of open space, and to lose this wild space would be backward thinking during a time when we need climate action.

I strongly oppose the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Laura Vecchione

--

Laura Vecchione (Veck-ee-oh-nee)



Assistant Professor of Voice
Berklee College of Music
Singer/Songwriter/Private Music Teacher

617-461-0525

www.LauraVmusic.com

Follow:

[Spotify](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Newsletter](#)

Purchase Music:

[iTunes](#) [Bandcamp](#)

From: fredrig@gmail.com
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 7:16:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Envoyé de mon téléphone. Merci d'être indulgent envers les fautes de frappe.

From: [Joanne Loomer](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 7:22:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

From: [Liz Simpson](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:02:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you, Liz Simpson

From: [Ellen Kravitz](#)
To: JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Bike trails at Hills Hill
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:14:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Joe,

I hope it is not too late for me to weigh in on the proposed Hill's Hill bike trails. As others have requested, I too hope the pump track will be built outside of the woods, and that the bike trails within Hills Hill are built in consultation with independent experts (selected by Arlington committees, not the contractor) who can insure minimal damage to the habitat. I live across from Hills Hill and have always been grateful there was a small area of barely touched (except for the teens on Friday nights) land where trees, plants and animals were for the most part left in peace (over the years I've seen coyotes, woodchucks, owls, etc. in Hills Hill). For more than a decade, I have walked several miles each night on varying routes and watched many patches of trees/shrubs disappear as smaller homes are torn down and replaced by mansions. We are slowly removing every last bit of natural habitat, and then folks complain about water runoff, nuisance wildlife, etc. I'm sure there is a way to accommodate bikers while maintaining the habitat in Hills Hill, but I don't see how it can be done if a pump track is added to the woods.

I am impressed by and commend your work on the fine athletic fields and facilities in Arlington, but I also think it's important to protect the tiny bits of wild space that remain. One small suggestion for the new Hills Hill biking area: Trash has always been a huge problem within Hills Hill and at the Washington Street extension entrance (abutters are sick of cleaning it up). Included in funding for the bike trail, please add trash barrels/trash pick up, perhaps one at the entrance from the soccer field and definitely at least one (maybe 2?) at the entrance from the Washington St. extension. If nothing else, barrels make it feasible for good samaritans walking by to help keep the area clean. (I frequently pick up others' litter, but only if barrels are fairly close by). While on the topic of litter... not sure if you have any say in this....The woods that run along Summer St., adjacent to the soccer field, small baseball field and hockey rink are also filled with trash. I fear the addition of a bike trail will only add to that. Any possibility the town can clean the woods once per year, in early spring, before the underbrush and poison ivy grow? Thank you for listening and for all of your efforts for Arlington.

Ellen Kravitz
10 King Street

From: [Kalina Ingham](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:35:07 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Kalina Ingham

I remain the optimist; you just do your best and hope for the best. But it's an evolving state of mind. ~ Neil Peart

From: [Jay A](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 9:48:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Javier Avendaño, MD
javiaven@gmail.com

"It is normal for me to take 2 days to read my emails and 2 more days to reflect on the matter and respond calmly. The culture of immediacy and the constant fragmentation of time are not very compatible with the kind of life I lead."

From: [Keith M Marzilli Ericson](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Opposition to Hill's Hill MTB Park
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2023 11:49:28 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to oppose the project to develop mountain bike infrastructure on Hill's Hill.

We should preserve our wild/natural spaces, and conserve our financial resources for higher priorities, especially our schools.

Best,
Keith Ericson
85 Coolidge Rd
Arlington, MA 02476

Keith M Marzilli Ericson

Web: www.practicingeconomist.com

From: [Yvette Marts](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's hill bike park
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2023 9:45:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Yvette Marts

"If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you'll have less joy in your life but the same amount of snow" ~ Christopher Robin Of Winnie the Pooh

From: [Camille DiBenedetto](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill-no Preservation funds for Habitat destruction
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2023 2:43:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee Members,

I have been a resident and homeowner in Arlington for 24 years and attended Arlington Catholic in the 1970's. I moved here to enjoy the natural habitat while still being near the city. I live near Hill's Hill and walk near it often. I am deeply concerned about protecting the environment and am therefore concerned about the proposed mountain bike park on Hill's Hill.

Please don't approve CPA funding for this bike park without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including that it is expensive, ie it would cost \$400,000 which is very high for a project while town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds. It is destructive as its application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all. This application is also divisive as nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. No protections were included in the document.

Let's insure "preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill. I want to have a say in how my tax dollars are spent in this town.

Thank you,

Dr. Camille DiBenedetto

From: [Maria Barth](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Preserving the woodland at Hill's Hill
Date: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:53:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee,

I'm writing in support of preserving the woods at Hill's Hill in Arlington, and in opposition to building the proposed pump track for mountain biking in the woods of Hill's Hill.

It appears that pump tracks do not require a wooded area. Therefore, a pump track can be placed elsewhere in town that would be less impactful on the local native wildlife and plant ecosystem. I'm writing in support of considering an alternative location for the pump track.

I do not feel that destruction of town woodland is an appropriate use of Community Preservation tax funds without a use that would benefit many people. I don't feel the pump track proposal would be of great enough public benefit to justify the destruction of woodland area.

Thank you for reading and considering.

Maria Barth
204 Summer Street

From: [Sarah Montague](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2022 2:12:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections.

At \$400,000 this is a very expensive project. The project application is vague and lacks written commitment to the protection of the site's natural habitat. The Feasibility Study shows significant natural areas converted to man-made bike recreation zones.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brian McBride](#)
To: [Joe Connelly](#)
Cc: [Jim Feeney](#); [Clarissa Rowe home](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) CPAC Application Hill's Hill
Date: Friday, January 06, 2023 12:09:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Joe,

I just noticed the PRC Hill's Hill application online.

One thing: It seems some citizen letters got inadvertently cut — only the letters of support were included in the application. Would it be possible to correct this so the CPAC folks can see the input was decidedly mixed. During the feasibility hearing period, for example, letters were actually pretty evenly divided with 45% of writers saying “No” or “Only if EcoTrack“

Thanks and Happy New Year.

Brian McBride
m (617) 645 -8729

From: [Amanda Yu](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:16:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi,

We recently moved to Arlington and love the cycling infrastructure that is starting to grow. It would be wonderful to have a bike park for our kids to practice so many essential skills and burn a little extra energy.

Amanda

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Tibbetts Wu](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:37:05 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning,

I am writing to voice my full support for the Hill's Hill bike park. My boys, 11 and 13, would love to have a place like this to ride their bikes with friends! I think it is a fabulous idea and fully support the concept and location.

Thank you,
Mary Tibbetts Wu
29 Hillcrest St

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Natalee Rabinowitz](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:41:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Writing to show my support for the proposed bike area at Hill's Hill.

This would be a huge advantage for our town; providing unique outdoor activity that we currently drive to other towns to access. The location suggested is perfect, turning an unused and litter-strewn area into a useful public space that will still be visually appealing to those who don't use it. Thank you so much for considering this project.

Natalee and Jonathan Rabinowitz 81 Thesda St Arlington Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tonya Bourassa](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:53:31 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good day,

Our family supports the hills's hill MTB park.
It will provide opportunities for more Arlington residents to enjoy Hills hill.

Tonya Bourassa 61 Sunset Road Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anna Papantonakis](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 7:47:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please consider finding this park. It will be a great addition to our town.

Anna

From: [Jeff Sugarman](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:03:03 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello, My family is SUPER EXCITED about the potential mountain bike park at Hills Hill! We are a family of riders and would welcome a safe, easily accessible place for our kids (ages 13 and 10) to meet other kids who share their love of nature and mountain biking. Thank you for considering this idea. Sincerely, Jeff Sugarman Sent from my iPhone

From: [Helene Newberg](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:20:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Greetings! I support the bike playground!

Thanks!

From: [Allison Norton](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:20:51 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Our family is in support of using funds for the Hill's Hill Bike Park. This would be an amazing addition to our community.

Thank you,
Allison and Miles Norton
6 Crescent Hill Ave.

From: [Sarah Phoenix](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:21:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi there, We would absolutely love to have the mountain bike park at Hill's Hill move forward. Both of my kids, 6 and 9, as well as my husband and I mountain bike and really enjoy pump tracks. To have something like this in town would be a huge asset and enable more kids to get into the amazing sport of mountain biking. To not have to get into the car and pack up the bikes to go to another town would be wonderful!

We look forward to hearing the next steps! Thank you,
Sarah

From: [David Watson](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:33:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I strongly support the creation of a bike park at Hill's Hill. I'm a lifelong cyclist and longtime mountain biker, and cycling has been essential to my physical and mental wellbeing. Riding bikes is fun and healthy, and teaches that practice and hard work pay off (by building skills and improving physical health and mental wellness). While adults can go for long recreational bike rides, or drive to mountain bike trails, kids need safe, fun facilities close to home. They need a place to "play bikes"!

For the the past 17 years, my professional focus has been encouraging bicycling through better policy and infrastructure. Arlington has made great strides for bicycling transportation and safety, but for kids we lack that place to play bikes. Yes, we have the Minuteman, but kids need more challenge and variety than riding back and forth on the path, not to mention dodging other path users. Sidewalks and roadways are not safe places for kids to play bikes. The answer is a dedicated bike park.

Hill's Hill is a great location for a bike park. It is adjacent to some of the Town's existing major recreational facilities for kids. It is conveniently and centrally located, and is accessible by bike, on foot, by car, and by bus. The terrain is appropriate for a well-designed, sustainable, and beautiful bike park. There are good examples in our metro area of bike parks embedded harmoniously into wooded areas, providing recreational opportunities while preserving and respecting the natural environment.

I urge you to approve CPA funds to move this exciting project forward for Arlington's kids!

David Watson
170 Franklin Street Unit 1
Arlington, MA 02474

From: [Angela Mendez](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 12:33:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello!

I hope you are well.

I am writing to express my support to the Mountain Bike Playground project at Hill's Hill. As a resident of this area, I think it would be a wonderful addition to the community and an amazing opportunity for our kids to learn and enjoy a different discipline.

Thanks so much!

Angela Mendez
492 Summer St
Arlington, MA

From: [Chandreyee Das](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Support for Bike playground and pump track
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 1:19:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Arlington CPAC --

Our family strongly supports the proposed bike playground and pump track at Hill's Hill. Having rideable trails, maintained, in that area would be a great recreation option for both kids and adults, and would support investment in improving plantings, erosion control, and overall cleanliness of the area.

Please move it forward!

Chandreyee Das

From: [Cara](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:58:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon, I am writing to voice my support of the mountain biking trails and pump track at Hills Hill. I am an Arlington resident with three children in the Arlington public schools. I feel this will be a very valuable asset to Arlington especially for those children who do not play on large sports teams. My oldest son is currently an eighth grader and for a variety of reasons is unable to participate on sports teams. It's become abundantly clear that Arlington does not have many options for kids who would still like to be active and social outside of school, especially those who struggle with social skills. I believe having access to mountain biking trails directly off the bike path would give an opportunity for independence while socializing, with others interested in the same activities. I heard a talk by Michael Thompson a few years ago, where he said that the antidote to anxiety for children is just to play. With many youth struggling with mental health issues, isolation and anxiety, it seems that an active, outside, supportive environment, unlike high pressure sports, could only have a positive impact. Thanks, Cara Sent from my iPhone

From: [Todd Spivak](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 5:19:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I'm so excited that the town is considering adding progressive mountain biking skills features to Hill's Hill -- including the Pump Track on site! Myself and my kiddos (ages 7, 9) would be prime users of the park and are so excited to have a chance to welcome it to our neighborhood!

Todd Spivak
542 summer St

From: [Klein Family](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 5:37:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi. I'm a resident of Arlington with two children living here in town. We enjoy mountain biking as a family. One of the kids is wild for it! We're excited to have a place here where they can progress their skills away from traffic and the hikes on dedicated trails. I might even try a few laps by self. Please push this project through into actuality.

Thanks

Jared Klein

617-378-8437

16 Adams st

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ema G. Rodrigues](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:31:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I am an Arlington resident and parent of a 6 year-old and 11 year-old. I'm writing to show support for the Hill's Hill Mountain bike park. This would be a local fun option for outdoor activity.

Thank you,
Ema

From: [Meredith Amend](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 7:48:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi!

We live in Arlington Heights and think this addition would be so amazing!

Thanks,
Meredith

From: [Jessica von Goeler](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill eco track park Support
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:11:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Arlington CPAC,

I would love to see a mountain bike park that also protects the environment at Hill's Hill.

I currently do not use this space due to broken glass (not safe for our dog) and remnants of teen/young adult parties (not what we want to teach our young daughter). A usable space would be amazing.

I want to protect our surrounding environment. The eco track proposal provides both youth recreation and environmental protections. This has worked in similar spaces and can work in ours.

I urge you to adopt the eco track proposal for Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Slate von Goeler
978-921-4355

WPI, MBA, 2005
Mass Maritime, Engine, 1993

From: [Ruth Schmidt](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2023 12:04:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

(This is a copy of the email that I sent to Joe Connelly on 12/11/22)

I live near Hills Hill, and walk thru it occasionally with my dog. The reason I don't walk thru there regularly is due to the broken glass and litter that is often there. It's an under-used and under-appreciated piece of land, and it has been that way for a very long time. For awhile there was a sofa in the clearing, and clearly kids regularly use the area for drinking. (I believe at one point that a homeless person set up a tent in those woods.) The entrance at Washington St. is always full of litter - a real eyesore.

When I saw that some trails and jumps had unofficially been put in at Hills Hill around the time of the Covid lockdown, I was really excited. I could see my friend's kids enjoying such an area instead of setting up jumps in their street (near a blind corner).

Then when I heard about the possibility of officially using the park for Mountain Biking & a pump track, I was thrilled! This seems like a win-win for everyone - many bored kids (and adults) will have something healthy (and free) to do, and the area will have enough regular foot/bike traffic & use that hopefully the drinkers will no longer abuse the area. One of my sons enjoys mountain biking and I wish this had existed when he was a young kid (he's in his 20s and lives in Colorado now).

I truly hope that this proposal goes forward and that Arlington can look forward to a productive use of the beautiful but under-appreciated woods area at Hills Hill.

Sincerely,
Ruth Schmidt
47 Crawford St., Arlington

From: [Kate Hoversten](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2023 6:54:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I'm an Arlington parent of 3 and would very much like to see a dirt-path pump track in hills hill! I can already picture my kids spending many happy afternoons there. Knowing there will be no trees taken down and the bike trails would only take up less than an acre of the natural habitat makes this an easy decision for me!

Kate Hoversten

From: [Clarissa Rowe home](#)
To: [Julie Wayman](#); [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Fwd: Community Preservation Act Funds for Hill's Hill Mountain Biking project
Date: Monday, December 05, 2022 2:13:28 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danuta Forbes <danutaf17@gmail.com>
Date: December 5, 2022 at 1:32:59 PM EST
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Susan Doctrow <sdoctrowarltm@gmail.com>, Clarissa Rowe <clarissa.rowe@comcast.net>
Subject: Community Preservation Act Funds for Hill's Hill Mountain Biking project

Dear Community Preservation Act Committee Members,

I am a former Town Meeting Member from precinct 10 (for nine years) and have worked hard to organize my precinct for support for the CPA.

I recently learned that there has been some opposition to supporting the Hill's Hill Mountain Biking project, and I am deeply dismayed. There has been a HUGE mental health crisis in teens since the pandemic started, and so many kids I know have retreated into their devices and gaming. I think any project that encourages our kids to be outside, getting exercise is vital to the continued health of our town, for everyone's benefit. We all know there is a dire shortage of soccer/lacrosse/baseball fields, and many sports at the high school level are competitive and exclusive. Mountain biking is a sport that most people can do on their own, but creating a recreational space for teens to gather and bike safely (not on the roads which can be dangerous to teens and drivers) right in our town is essential. We want our kids active and in fresh air, it's great for their development and a nice break from being indoors for two years plus...

I hope that you will disregard a few vocal naysayers, and support this project.

Thanks so much,

Danuta Forbes
4 Iroquois Road, Arlington
danutaf17@gmail.com

From: [GM](#)
To: ifeeney@town.arlington.ma.us; jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill mountain bike trail proposal
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 1:49:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon. I would appreciate if this message were shared with the entire CPA committee.

Basically, as an Arlington resident who is also the father of a toddler, I urge you to approve and allocate the CPA funds that Parks & Rec Commission is seeking in order to design and build the mountain bike trails and pump track, in the woods, among the trees, all while being sensitive to nature.

The opposition to this proposal comes mostly from adults who seem scared of what "unsupervised teenagers" will do and how they will ruin nature. This is an extremely myopic view. We already have unsupervised teenagers - in fact, teenagers have found ways to be unsupervised, in parks, in public, and in the woods, for as long as there have been teenagers! This proposal has no meaningful effect on the level of teenage activity in Arlington, and is being used as a smokescreen by adults who don't like or understand kids.

Teens need some adult support here, and you can be the ones to give that to them. They're trying to do this the right way, by seeking permission and getting an official trail and park built, and we should be rewarding that proactiveness and entrepreneurial spirit because this is teens trying to do a good thing for the community in the public eye, not sneaking around trying to spend more time in the woods unsupervised. If that's what they wanted, they'd already be doing it and we probably wouldn't know. Mountain biking is a creative outlet and an athletic one, and if you aren't familiar with the mountain biking community, it's a positive, supportive community that lets kids who aren't necessarily into traditional sports have an outlet where they can feel comfortable, confident, and learn new skills as well as learn about themselves. There is no adversarial spirit like you see in youth soccer, popular in Arlington, where adults yell at referees and act more like children than their kids do. Furthermore, anyone into outdoor sports like mountain biking, rock climbing, skiing, or anything similar knows that nature is an integral part of their sport and knows that they have to take care of nature if they want to continue to enjoy its fruits. This is not the case with basketball, football, soccer, or baseball, all of which I played as a child, not because those things aren't important to athletes who play those sports, but because it simply is a non-issue. You go to your playing field and then you go home. No nature involved.

Making this proposal out to be destructive to nature is completely absurd. That lot is not well cared for as it stands, and if people cared so much about it, they would have done something in the past 20 years or more to maintain it, but they haven't. The fact that they're all of a sudden so interested in preserving the nature of that spot is simply a convenient excuse to prevent teenagers from having any sort of control. Teens will be the leaders of tomorrow whether we like it or not, and empowering them to make smart choices, healthy choices, and ones that will ultimately improve the way of life of adults and kids alike in Arlington is something that it's our duty to do.

Please support this proposal, and make Arlington into the supportive community that it claims to be. The town's kids need it, and it will show that Arlington is a progressive Town that's not stuck in the past, and takes kids and their mental and physical health seriously.

Thank you for your consideration.

~George Michael Hakim
10 Edith Street

From: [Julie Wayman](#)
To: [Daniel Leonard](#); jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Re: Mnt Biking at Hills Hill
Date: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:58:17 AM

Thank you for your feedback, Dan.

Julie Wayman

Budget Director
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476
781-316-3005

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Daniel Leonard <leonarddaniel@hotmail.com>
To: "jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us" <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>, "jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us" <jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 21 Nov 2022 21:31:02 +0000
Subject: Mnt Biking at Hills Hill

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Arlington's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the REAL sender (whose email address in the From: line in "< >" brackets) and you know the content is safe.

Dear Julie Wayman and Jim Feeney,

I wanted to write in support of the mountain biking trails being proposed at Hills Hill. As a lifelong resident of Arlington, I strongly support the creation of the trails. They would provide a place for recreation and exercise for our residents, especially kids. Mountain biking is a great sport and promotes being outdoors, being healthy, and preserving the environment. When I was a kid those woods were full of trash and primarily used on weekend nights for drinking beers.

I understand there is some opposition. It seems like the same people that opposed the new high school, which looks fantastic. I hope you'll support this too.

Thanks,
Dan Leonard
Longfellow Road
Arlington

From: [Lara Lind](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Opposition to Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 10:57:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. We shouldn't use Community Preservation Act funding on a project that harms natural spaces. The Mountain Bike Park application has several major flaws:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Lara Lind

From: [Amanda DeBurro](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 8:10:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all. This is concerning at a time when the Environment and Climate should be at the forefront of our minds. If we are not being stewards of our land, who is?
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

From: [Renee Scott](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill Woods
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 8:38:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all. We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis. Removing wooded areas is the opposite of what we need to do. We need more natural areas.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Renée Scott

From: [Janice Griffin](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:59:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

From: [Alicia Russell](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Please don't destroy the Hill's Hill forested area!
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 2:47:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA committee,

As a member of Arlington Mothers Out Front and someone anxious to save habitat for pollinators, I'm dismayed to see a proposal that will destroy one of Arlington's few remaining forested areas.

Working with habitat experts and interested Arlington citizens to create an [Eco Track](#) in another area looks like a good solution. Please consider it! I hope these kinds of partnerships will be part of future planning in Arlington.

Sincerely,
Alicia Russell
21 Hopkins Rd.
Arlington MA

From: [Philippe Heckly](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Preserve Hill's Hill
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 4:59:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr Feeney,

I am concerned about the proposed development plan for Hill's Hill.

I understand that Hill's Hill land was purchased by eminent domain back in the 40s for recreational purposes and the soccer/baseball field meets this use. I also believe that it is important for us in Arlington in the 21st century to find a way to preserve whatever small piece of wood we still have in town. Covid 19 and global warming being two of the many reasons to do so.

I want to express my concerns over the proposed project which at \$400,000 is expensive when the town is planning to raise taxes by \$8.5 million this year. I am also concerned about the loss that this would be for the town from an environmental point of view.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration and have a great weekend.

Philippe Heckly | 106 Palmer St, Arlington | 781 475-7825

From: [Katie Noyes](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 5:23:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill. There are many better places for this park, including at the edge of the soccer field at the foot of Hill's Hill, on the other side of the Burns Arena where an outdated play area is collecting weeds, or at McLennen Park, where a skate park has been established. Please leave the forest as is so that it can be enjoyed without disrupting wildlife and plants. It is one of our few forests in Arlington.

As you already know, the project is:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Please preserve Hill's Hill as a forest, not a mountain biking park.

thank you,
Kathryn Noyes
15 Aerial Street

From: [Robin Gottlieb](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 5:24:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Robin Gottlieb
94 Egerton Road

From: [Gina Sonder](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: spooler@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Attn: Community Preservation Act Committee
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 5:53:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To: The Community Preservation Act Committee;

Preservation is the name of this committee, yet the Hills Hill Pump-Track project is, in part, Destruction of natural habitat - a scarce resource in Arlington.

- I am opposed to using CPA funds to build this project.
- I am opposed to siting this bicycle track in the middle of the woods.
- I am opposed to building unnecessarily on undisturbed undeveloped natural lands.

Use the \$400K to preserve or restore public property to make it more resilient and sustainable as the climate crisis becomes an ever larger factor in our lives.

If the public must have a Pump-Track, put it adjacent to the bike path where the land is not a wildlife habitat.

The Town of Arlington has declared that we are in a Climate Emergency* and every one of our projects should go towards mitigation of the effects of extreme weather. This, per the declaration, should be our focus for all Town projects.

I hope that the CPA Committee understands the gravity of the situation we face and takes appropriate steps now and in the coming years to fund proposals which promote a just and equitable transition as we navigate ways to be a more resilient community.

Sincerely,

Gina Sonder

Emergency Arlington

***June 2nd, 2021 Arlington became the twenty-third Massachusetts municipality to declare a climate emergency!**

cc: Arlington Town Manager

--

"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery - not over nature but of ourselves."

- Rachel Carson, biologist, writer, conservationist (1907-1964)

Please note: messages sent via e-mail do not remain confidential.

From: [Francie Jones](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Concern about Hill's Hill development
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 6:03:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like this email to join the many others expressing concern about developing a recreation area at Hill's Hill without adequate habitat impact exploration and protection.

Of course recreation is a vital part of any community--but so is environmental protection and stewardship. There must be a way to have recreation without habitat destruction.

One of the only mistakes that cannot be undone in our lifetimes is mitigating years of ecosystem development and tree maturation with shorter-term projects. This proposed habitat transformation is expensive, controversial, and above all potentially quite harmful at a time when environmentally we must conserve and save all we can.

Please take steps to protect the species and ecosystems that cannot stand up for themselves.

Thank you,
Frances Jones
Arlington, MA

From: [Lauren Thomas](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Whose Woods These Are, I Think You Know
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 7:34:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Feeney,

As a Massachusetts resident and taxpayer, I'm writing to oppose the development of Hill's Hill into a mountain bike park.

CPA funding is not supposed to damage our natural environment; it's supposed to **preserve** open space, parks, and historic buildings. Arlington can build bike trails elsewhere, and that \$400,000 of taxpayer money could be put to better use than destroying one of the few remaining wild green spaces in Arlington.

There is a growing majority of Massachusetts citizens who are concerned about green spaces and climate change, and want to protect trees, open spaces, and natural habitats for wildlife, especially in urban areas. People in my neighborhood — Back Bay in Boston — are becoming much more aware of the importance of trees; over the past several years, I have witnessed and applauded it as co-chair of the Tree Committee for the Garden Club of the Back Bay, and as an advocate for trees at the Back Bay Architectural Commission's monthly hearings.

CPA-funded projects should be universally applauded as enhancements to communities. They should not be controversial, destructive, or divisive. This one definitely is! Please don't fund it.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best regards,

Lauren Thomas
348 Marlborough Street, Apt. 2
Boston, MA 02115
H: 617-262-1290
M: 617-688-8666

From: [sue.sheffler](mailto:sue.sheffler@town.arlington.ma.us)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 6:53:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please Do NOT approve *Community Preservation Act* funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. **Expensive** - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. **Destructive** - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. **Divisive** - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. ***There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town.*** Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Sue Sheffler
26 Kensington Park

From: [Richa Gawande](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:01:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Hill's Hill has been a refuge for me and my family during my husband's years of leukemia treatment. He is in late stages of the illness now and I walk in the peaceful woods every day to get some space and a needed dose of nature. It is close enough to my house where I can go there and back and leave my husband alone at home. There are no other woods that I can access by foot like this, and that is true for many residents who use Hill's Hill. I am extremely saddened to learn that the proposed Bike Park would not preserve this important community refuge and wildlife habitat. Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Richa Gawande, PhD

From: [Cheryl Marceau](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Please Preserve Hill's Hill
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:33:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Jim,

I'm writing to you as the point of contact for CPAC, and I'm asking that you forward this email to the members of the committee.

I've reached out before, prior to what appears to be the most recent proposal submitted for consideration. My previous concerns have not been addressed (perhaps because the proposal has not been updated) and I'm still concerned about them.

Proponents of a mountain bike park on Hill's Hill argue primarily that we *need* this park because there are no recreational opportunities for middle school and older kids. This argument ignores the existence of at least one climbing wall, skateboard park, bike path, multiple basketball and tennis courts, skating rink, canoe and kayak rentals at Spy Pond, playing fields, and of course sports opportunities organized by the Recreation Department. Clearly there are lots of physical recreation options for older kids and adults at any time of year. In addition, for more sedentary recreation, we have wonderful libraries with all kinds of programs plus Arlington Community Education programs for kids and teens as well as adults. If that doesn't provide enough recreation, then I have to ask how much is enough.

More to the point, we don't need to add yet another recreation opportunity at the expense of woodland. Hill's Hill is a diverse habitat for plants and animals. It is mature woodland. One cannot just cut down and replant trees and expect them to sequester carbon immediately — it takes years for trees to do their wonderful carbon sequestration job. We need all the trees we can get, and not just newly planted trees. Proponents argue that there won't be damage to trees, but that's impossible. There is no practical way to build a pump track in the meadow without using heavy equipment, and no way to do that without tearing down trees at least for the duration of the construction.

And what about those in our community who consider walking in the woods to be recreation? The bike path is NOT nature — it is lovely in its own way, but many of us hate walking there for fear of being run over by aggressive cyclists, and it is paved. What is wrong with acknowledging that walking on unpaved trails through the woods is also recreation? A majority of people here in Arlington believe we already have enough developed recreation sites. A majority also believes we need more undeveloped recreation sites such as the woodland trails on Hill's Hill. People increasingly recognize that our planet is in danger and cutting trees is a bad idea. Building more playgrounds and built recreation sites takes a back seat in town survey results. A small number of vocal advocates wants us to spend half a million tax dollars for a built recreational facility to benefit a few. There are alternatives to the pump track on the meadow, although advocates are unwilling to support that option. Let's spend less money, save a wild habitat, keep the park open for its current uses, and find a way to build a pump track where it won't damage an important habitat.

Regards,
Cheryl Marceau
Cleveland St.

From: [DIANA MOSES](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) My objections to building a pump track on Hill's Hill
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 3:09:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Community Preservation Act Committee:

I am writing to object, again, to the transformation of Hill's Hill into an overdeveloped, harsh landscape for a limited use.

I have no objection to the Town trying to support the current interest in pump tracks and mountain biking among youth, but I think the Town ought to figure out how to integrate this sport into the Town without causing too much damage to irreplaceable natural resources.

I object especially to removing trees and disrupting a woods habitat to make way for a pump track that could be located with less disruption elsewhere.

Arlington has fewer and fewer mature trees, as many curbside trees have been taken down and others have been removed when other projects have been recently undertaken, for example, at the Res and in front of the Jefferson Cutter House. We also have less and less open green space, as the result of projects such as locating the new high school closer to the street than the structure it replaces was located.

I understand that there are benefits to at least some people from these reductions to Arlington's wooded and green spaces, but, it seems to me, the issue is not whether we can see some benefits but rather whether the balance between costs and benefits supports going forward with a particular initiative in question. Part of such an analysis should include discussion of alternatives, in the case of the Hill's Hill proposed pump track, other locations that are more suitable from a number of perspectives.

The analysis should also take into account the cumulative impact on the Town of all the recent projects reducing our trees and green spaces; at a certain point Arlington will have ceased to be a town and will have become a city, in terms of its landscape, and it seems to me irresponsible for us to allow that to happen without our realizing it.

If we apply the kind of analysis I have sketched out to the question of whether to build a pump track on Hill's Hill, I believe the result would be a decision to build it elsewhere, and I hope that is what happens.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Diana Moses
Appleton St

From: [Kay Seligson](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation funds for habitat destruction
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:12:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Kay Seligson

From: [betty trembly](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hills Hill
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:12:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Mr. Feeney,

I understand the Community Preservation Act Committee is considering an application to build a mountain bike pump track on Hill's Hill. I oppose this proposal. Let Hill's Hill continue to be open space, where the diversity of plants can be undisturbed. There is space for a pump track at the base of the hill, near the soccer field. Please protect the hill itself.

Sincerely,

Betty Trembly
76 Wright St.
Arlington MA

From: [Sam Polk](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Regarding Proposed Hill's Hill Construction
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 9:17:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Feeney,

My name is Dr. Sam Polk, and I am a homeowner in Arlington Heights, near Hill's Hill. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Arlington CPA Committee's plan to place a mountain bike course in Hill's Hill.

Hill's Hill is one of the few remaining wooded spaces in our city, and many Arlington residents (my family included) routinely walk through it. I understand and support the CPA Committee's efforts to make Arlington a more bike-friendly city. Indeed, my family is excited about the city's plan to connect the Minuteman Bike Path with the Mystic River Path. We feel the proposed plan for Hill's Hill is different in substantial ways, however. This plan makes a green place less accessible to the many Arlington residents who currently use it by making it solely usable by mountain bikers.

Perhaps more importantly, however, the expensive destruction of this wooded space is entirely unnecessary. Arlington already has many unofficial mountain bike trails (including some within Hill's Hill). The CPA Committee could spend its limited city funds on making these official trails and maintaining them. It is moreover deeply concerning that the CPA Committee is considering the destruction of one of the few wooded regions in our city, especially given its stated stance on the environmental crises faced by Arlington and our world on a whole. No environmental considerations have been made in the Hill's Hill proposal, which as stated is likely to cause substantial habitat destruction. I urge the CPA Committee not to approve this expensive and destructive project in Hill's Hill.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sam Polk

From: [Christopher Heigham](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 2:57:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Mr Feeney and the CPA Committee:

I am a nearby resident of Hill's Hill and a Precinct 15 Town Meeting Member. I regularly walk in the woods there. Spending \$400K to put a man-made structure in the middle of one of our few remaining larger tracts of green space is not a wise use of "preservation" funds. The pump track should be moved out of the woods.

There is considerable controversy around this proposal, which indicates that before it should be funded, more work is needed to reach a plan that the majority of residents support. A 'public input' session in the dead of Summer (8/2) was not well-timed for reaching a wide range of residents, and even it had significant public opposition.

Thanks for your work on behalf of the town.

Topher Heigham
Richfield Rd

From: [Danny Miller](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 5:10:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Danny Miller
46 Jason St

From: [Brian McBride](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Cc: [Clarissa Rowe home](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Please reject Hill's Hill Application
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 8:37:19 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Jim, Clarissa and CPA Committee,

Please don't approve the PRC Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Park application for CPA funds. The application has no protection for the important woodland at Hill's Hill. It's very expensive. And there is no community consensus on how to balance recreation and preservation at the site.

I write this with some disappointment, as I was among advocates who urged the Eco-Track, common sense compromise for the project, which would have explicitly stated that construction in the woods would have been excluded.

Taxpayers shouldn't be asked to take a gamble that the project will eventually protect the habitat. We've had months of discussion around the feasibility study. The August public hearing showed nearly half the respondents objected to the lack of environmental guardrails. Yet no adjustment was made in the project description or goals.

Let's make sure the "Preservation" goals of the CPA are prioritized in Arlington.

Thank you and thank you for your service to the town.

Brian McBride
m 617-645-8729
brianmcb@outlook.com

Wakefield Pump Track - Yes, there are trees but it's a habitat nightmare.

Pump Track



From: [Daniel Hope](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) opposition to the pump track
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:19:44 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom It May Concern--

As a resident of the Turkey Hill neighborhood, I write in opposition to the pump track, which is not only costly but will destroy an important space devoted to preserving Arlington's increasingly scarce undeveloped spaces. While I appreciate the effort to create a recreation area, the fact that a less invasive option was not considered is inappropriate and sets a bad precedent for how undeveloped areas in Arlington will be protected in the future. I hope the committee will reconsider the application for the grant that would cause this environmentally insensitive project to move forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hope

15 Chatham Street

From: [Martha Rogers](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Please reject the PRC Mountain Bike Park application for Hill's Hill
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:05:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Jim, Clarissa and CPA Committee,

As a resident of Arlington, I write to ask that you do not approve the PRC Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Park application for CPA funds. The PRC's development process over the past few months has failed to measure up to the integrity, transparency and community representation that I expect from a project of this magnitude in our town. Here are some of the reasons that I oppose the project:

- **Arlington declared a climate emergency in June, 2021. This project has yet to address the town meeting resolution** requiring that major town decisions preserve natural lands, consider climate impact, oppose actions that increase greenhouse gas emissions and support actions that increase climate resiliency.
- **Hill's Hill is one of our FEW remaining woodlands** and provides a precious tree canopy very close to one of the major heat islands at Mirak Chevrolet on Mass. Ave. The pump track would not only require the removal of many trees, but also destroy a habitat with many native plants that are currently thriving without human intervention. This irreversible damage is the antithesis of the climate emergency resolution.
- **The PRC has been asked repeatedly to create an environmental impact study** but none is forthcoming.
- **PRC has given no evidence to support prioritizing Hill's Hill for the pump track.** There are several other locations in town that would not destroy precious habitat and could meet the PRC's perceived need for a mountain bike park. These alternate sites would meet everyone's needs.
- **The need for this project is questionable and has not been verified** beyond anecdotal testimonies from the enthusiastic mountain biking community. In fact, data from the 2022-2029 Open Space survey reveals information opposing this kind of project:
 - o The Open Space survey data found that over 80% of respondents feel the town already has a good variety of playing fields and playgrounds
 - o Less than 20% feel the town does a good job prioritizing investment and protection of open spaces.
 - o 60% want more urban tree canopy
 - o 60% want more unstructured recreation park space
- **PRC has not provided a final design**, so the requested \$400,000, an enormous amount of taxpayer money, would be awarded without full disclosure about exactly how it is to be used.
- **Maintenance of pump tracks is an annual expense.** Every major weather event will erode the surfaces, whether it is built with dirt, wood,

permeable asphalt or the rubberized materials on playgrounds that present additional environmental hazards and damage the current habitat. Thus, the construction is just the beginning of long-term expenses for something that does not equitably benefit the town or honor the “climate emergency guidelines.” Arlington already has limited maintenance capability. **A poorly maintained pump track presents SERIOUS safety concerns.** Add on the fact that the track would be on a hill that is difficult to access and the safety concerns multiply.

Thank you for reading these concerns. Please include this letter in the public record. I very much appreciate your work to serve Arlington on the CPA committee. The list above is only part of many reasons for withholding approval of the funds for the PRC Mountain Bike Park application. Please consider the greater wellbeing of our children, our town and our planet. Say no.

Respectfully yours,

Martha Rogers

24 Rockaway Lane

From: [Will McMillan](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Preserving (Somewhat) Wild Habitat at Hill's Hill
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:04:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi, Deputy Town Manager Feeney (and the CPA Committee):

I have lived in Arlington for the past 30 years and bike past the Hill's Hill area of woodlands several times each week as I head up to Arlington Heights to lead Music Together classes.

I always take a deep breath of gratitude for this little region of (relative) wilderness along the bike trail.

I recently learned about a possible plan to build a mountain bike pump track in this small area of woods.

While I love the idea of a pump track (the artistic rendering of which looks very exciting!) for folks who love this kind of exercise and challenge, **I hate the idea of us human beings yet again taking one more chunk of relatively undeveloped habitat and turning it into something that just benefits human beings.**

In recent years I've been savoring the open space (and modest amount of wilderness) at Menotomy Rocks Park — and I was sad to learn that some owls who had been living there recently died due to poison (probably from us humans attempting to deal with the rising rat population in many parts of town...)

Argh!!!

I also love to walk in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, where you probably know there have been bald eagles nesting in recent years.

And most recently I have discovered — and cherish — the open space (and neighboring organic farm!!!) that is part of Arlington's reservoir property on the Lexington border.

These open spaces and still-somewhat-undeveloped chunks of land are precious resources for not just us humans, but for all sorts of other animals who help to keep our ecosystems (somewhat) intact.

For that reason alone I am not a fan of the current pump track plan.

When COVID arrived, I was very grateful to be able to lead Music Together classes behind the tennis courts across from the Boys & Girls Club near Spy Pond.

I — and my participating families — loved making music together outside with sun and clouds and wind and birds and insects (and the occasional tennis ball flying over the fence...)

In our increasingly screen-obsessed culture, spending time outside with trees and breeze and birds and bees is a truly healing experience.

Let's protect and honor the small chunks of (relative) wilderness which remains in Arlington for our mental health if nothing else!

The website which the Save Hill's Hill Woods group has put together mentions the possibility of an alternative site for this pump track, and emphasizes that **there could be a both/and solution (rather than either/or solution)**.

I very much hope that this little area of wilderness can be preserved as a vital asset for current and future generations of Arlington residents (human and otherwise)... AND that the pump track can find a better location.

Respectfully yours,

will

Will McMillan — Performer, Songwriter & Teacher

I am honored to have been included in the PIPPIN 50th anniversary performances on 2/6/23 and 2/7/23 at 54 Below in Manhattan. It turns out the 7pm show on 2/7/23 will be livestreamed, and [you can click here](#) if you are curious to learn more...

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, one finds it attached to the rest of the world." —John Muir"

If you are in need of some seasonal cheer, **you can click on a song title below** — and thank you for adding any of them to your musical playlists if you are so inclined!

["Let It Snow"](#)

["Winter Wonderland"](#)

["Count Your Blessings"](#)

If you'd like to hear more music, you can find me singing — with Doug Hammer playing his marvelous Schimmel grand piano — on [Spotify](#), [Pandora](#), [Apple Music](#) and other digital music platforms.

And if you enjoy what you hear, please follow/like/subscribe!

You are also welcome to [click here and visit my website](#).

And I'd be happy to connect via [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

“Few singers captivate an audience as quickly and convincingly as McMillan can. He presents his repertoire with a beguilingly intimate approach all his own.” — *New England Entertainment Digest*

Dear Mr Connelly and members of CPA Committee

I would like to add my voice to many who are concerned about proposal to design mountain bike park and pump track at Hill's Hill.

I believe many residents expressed their opinions regarding ecological impact if such project goes forward.

After visiting few pump tracks and learning more about them in person as a home owner, gardener, landscape designer wanted to form my opinion based on first hand observations and little research— here are my reservations.

Current proposal is expensive. Nearly 100 times more than recently completed pump track in the Town of Acton. A project that was designed and built with money raised privately and with collaboration with NEMBA. There is a current similar track planned in town of Harvard - again reasonably priced and designed .

These parks follow success of pump track built in Chelmsford. Since all funds are raised by volunteers - they have more determination to take care of the project later on .

Special Thanks

The framework of this presentation was structured after the recent successful proposal and approval of the Acton Pump Track.

Special thanks and congratulations to Nathan Kleinshmidt, 17 year old Acton resident, who made the dream of a Town Pump Track a reality for the citizens of Acton



Other Notes

- Funds will be raised through a go fund me and may be supplemented with grants from cycling advocacy groups. The current budget is roughly \$4,000 - \$5,000
- Liability will be handled in a similar manner to the town tennis & basketball courts, baseball & soccer fields.
- Pump track would be closed in the winter months and therefore not need any access, snow removal or maintenance.



Of course above projects aren't as big as proposed Hill's Hill bike park, which is quite extensive and complicated due to on going erosion and drainage issues (which Powderhorn Company acknowledges)

According to well respected Leelikesbikes website
<https://www.leelikesbikes.com/top-5-pump-track-mistakes.html>

2. Excessive scope.

Bigger is not better.

- 1) You have to be able to execute whatever you plan to build.
- 2) The entire track has to be ridden a lot. The sections that don't get ridden tend to fall apart.

I made this mistake at Lory State Park here in CO. That track was huge and awesome! But it was too much for most riders' fitness and skills levels, and the technical inner loops didn't get ridden enough. Nowadays I push hard to make tracks simpler and smaller.



It turns out pump tracks require constant maintenance- dirt has to be replenished every year , therefore good road access is a must. Water is also needed to shape hills.

Each track has to be adjusted after rain and most are closed on rainy days or when ground is damp to prevent erosion of tracks.

Of course courses are closed for Winter season.

Come Spring - tracks have to be rebuilt - which means annual maintenance budget will have to be established.





According to Parkitect - manufacturer of tracks listed by Powderhorn there are pros and cons of dirt tracks that are worth reading about

<https://parkitect.com.au/how-to-avoid-the-top-3-mistakes-in-pump-track-design/>



Dirt pump tracks

Dirt is dirt cheap, right?

Traditionally, many pump tracks were made of dirt. But building a dirt pump track can be fraught with problems.

The main issue is the need for **constant maintenance** to prevent track deterioration due to the weather and usage wear and tear. A poorly designed and maintained dirt track can be dangerous to riders as weeds grow around it and the track becomes loose.

The **quality of the dirt** itself is important. You'll want to make sure it's uncontaminated and not full of rocks or other solid material.

Another drawback of dirt pump tracks is that they **can only be ridden by bikes**, so they're not as versatile as pump tracks made of other materials. Not only that, if the riders don't like the design, they'll bring their own shovels and change it. And that can be a real liability issue for local councils.

So what about proposed pre fab pump track ? I visited manufacturer's website to find more. Powderhorn proposes one of the biggest tracks offered-The World Cup track . As you can see - the manufacturer has clear directions regarding installation of such track.

<https://www.parkitect.ch/blog/looking-for-a-new-way-to-engage-your-community-learn-the-costs-of-a-pumptrack>

Not only installing this against manufacturers recommendations can make this track susceptible to damage - most importantly - it will be unsafe and potentially uninsurable.

Determining the Foundation For Your Pumptrack

For the safety of your community, pumptracks can't just be thrown onto any type of surface. Pretty much anywhere that is: flat, less than 4% grade, compact, with decent drainage will be fine. It's best to install on hard surfaces, like concrete or asphalt so the track lays evenly, and the ground is less prone to erosion.

- If the space you are eyeing for a pumptrack doesn't have asphalt or concrete, you'll need to factor in the construction costs for laying a solid foundation before adding the pumptrack.
- If you're pushing to place your pumptrack on a softer surface, like soil or grass, you'll encounter additional expenses from the greater upkeep and maintenance costs than tracks placed on a firmer surface. To ensure the track is functioning properly and safely you will need to clean it more often and tend to things like the mud puddles that will form where the riders enter and exit the track.

To curb the costs of construction and maintenance, many communities opt to repurpose unused and underutilized spaces that already have a sufficient foundation. Just a few inspirational examples of just such locations:

- vacant parking lots,
- old sports courts(tennis, multi use games area, lacrosse, skating, etc.),
- and even dead spaces like under overpasses and high voltage power lines.

Spaces like these, where you already have a compact, inorganic surface like asphalt or concrete, you can simply install the pumptrack without any foundation costs at all.

Thank you for reading ,

Sincerely ,

Asia Kepka Precint 1
17 Silk Street
Arlington

From: [PETER HOWARD](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: tankmadel@yahoo.com
Subject: (Archive Copy) Bike trails on Hills Hill
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:30:56 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Jim,

I respect Beth Melofchik. I don't think she goes off half cocked. Please resist funding this assault on a tiny wooded parcel in our densely built up town

Pete Howard

From: [MBR](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:45:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Arlington Community Preservation Act Committee,

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the mountain bike park that's being proposed for Hill's Hill. We are living through an era of manmade climate crisis, and one of the most effective solutions has been found to be reforestation - the planting of huge numbers of new trees. A project like this that will that further deforestation is clearly not a good idea.

Furthermore, there are already more applications for CPA funding than there are CPA funds available. Back around 2014 the Town held a referendum on whether or not to tax ourselves an additional 1.5%, in order to qualify for over \$1 million in CPA funding annually. The tax increase was sold to the voters as providing additional funding to *preserve* Arlington's historic sites, our parks, and what little forested space is left in this town that's been considered "completely built out" since the 1970s. Specifically cited in the campaign (see <https://www.communitypreservation.org/home/news/arlington-cpa-campaign>) were that the funds would be used for:

- "renovating the Old Schwamb Mill, the nation's oldest continually operating mill site, and the historic Jason Russell house, both of which have deferred maintenance"
- "acquiring the Mugar property, an important area for wildlife habitat and flood storage"

No mention was made that the funds might one day be used for a project that, instead of preserving forested land, will inevitably cut down mature trees. If I had known that CPA funding would be used for that, I'd most certainly have voted against it. And I'm quite sure that the majority of those who voted for it back then would have done the same!

Using CPA funding to promote deforestation is a betrayal of the voters who believed that the examples given in order to convince us to vote to participate in the CPA were made in good faith. Such a betrayal will make a significant percentage of Arlington voters disinclined to ever again vote to tax ourselves at a higher rate for something that's being promoted as a good cause.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosenthal
62 Walnut St.
Arlington

From: [Barbara E.Schwartz](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) mountain bike park
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:59:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

I am asking you don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major issues including:

1. Expense- \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Barbara E Schwartz
Arlington Resident

Barbara E Schwartz, LMHC
Psychotherapist and Clinical Supervisor
58 Medford St.
Arlington, MA 02474
beslmhc@verizon.net
(617) 549 2048

From: [Andy Oram](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Eco-Track solution for Hill's Hill.
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 6:32:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to strongly support the Eco-Track solution for Hill's Hill. That proposal accommodates both the trails and the pump track while minimizing damage to a sensitive environment. The pump track would actually be more convenient in the Eco-Track solution.

Furthermore, I find the \$400,000 request excessive. Arlington can build the trails and pump track much more cheaply and ecologically while using most of the CPA money for projects that benefit a much wider range of Arlington's citizens.

Andrew Oram
38 High Haith Road
Arlington, Mass. 02476-7826
781-641-1261

From: [Mike Kong](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 8:09:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you, Christine Bulawa and Mike Kong
Home owners in Arlington for over 30 years

From: [David S. Lee](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 8:38:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

I would like to encourage you to approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill.

I am a close neighbor to Hills hill and noticed the how the trails that the local kids built during lockdown brought together a diverse group of kids from all around Arlington.

The close proximity to the rec center, ball fields, playground and the bike path make Hills hill the perfect location for a bike park for family use.

Thank you,
Dave

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Elaine Crowder](#)
To: [James Feeney](#); [Clarissa Rowe](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - Fund completion of the feasibility study - urge compromise
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:34:27 PM
Attachments: [c66a7ce5.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Jim Feeney, Clarissa Rowe and the CPA Committee,

I'm writing to urge the CPA Committee to pause its decision on awarding \$400,000 for design and construction of a mountain biking park at Hill's Hill. Instead I urge funding the completion of a full feasibility study that considers all aspects of this undeveloped open space -- habitat and ecosystem as well as recreation -- that borders the Hill's Hill youth soccer field. It's the responsible thing to do when proposals re-purpose existing natural open spaces.

Resources such as the Sports for Nature [Frameworks](#) and a report examining [nature-responsible ways of building new sport venues](#) might be considered in pursuing a **compromise eco-track** that pairs trails AND open space preservation. It's an innovative approach that could be a first in the region (see more information at end).

The Sports for Nature Framework includes four points.

https://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/-s4n-framework-en-15dec-no-embargo_final.pdf

1. **Protect nature and avoid damage to natural habitats and species;**
2. Restore and regenerate nature wherever possible;
3. Understand and reduce risks to nature in your supply chains; and
4. Educate and inspire positive action for nature across and beyond sport.

Funding additional study would allow:

- the inclusion of ecological principles from the start, alongside recreation goals
- assessment of Hill's Hill assets in need of preservation ... and ecological impacts of a build
 - this would establish a **biodiversity baseline** and assist in designing trails for preservation
- safety evaluation of the current unauthorized trails and the creation of a plan to lightly rebuild them with an emphasis on safety and cost reduction
- survey of similar trails and pump tracks in surrounding communities to gather lessons learned and gain a realistic assessment of maintenance issues, so they can be planned for with maintenance funds identified
- time for marshaling PRC's considerable connections with the mountain biking community and expertise in adult/youth education to mount a proactive education campaign:

Respect nature - respect the park - ride to chill - but please don't build

The public has not yet seen a description of the project that would answer critical questions, so public buy-in would be served by producing a more fleshed out description of intentions (see the list of questions that follows).

The CPA Committee has received much correspondence on both sides of this question. I propose there might be a fundamental point of common ground:

We all want to see the woodlands at Hill's Hill **remain healthy enough to persist into the future as a legacy for our children and grandchildren.** - for trail riding as well as a biodiverse habitat.

The Lessons Learned from one [study](#) led with "*need for compromise for nature conservation and recreation to exist alongside.*" I urge the eco-track compromise as outlined above with the pump track moved off the hill and out of the woods.

Let's give time for a solution to arise that is sensitive to the needs of Arlington's open space habitats as well as its youth.

Sincerely,
Elaine Crowder
TMM Precinct 19

== List of Questions to Be Clarified - with Personal Commentary ==

- How exactly will trails be built? Is the vision to build for thrills in the woods- with jumps, rollers hard banking turns? Or will the trails snake through the woods following elevation lines, as recommended by.

This is important because the most damage to a habitat from cycling occurs with braking/skidding and cutting switchbacks. (*Mountain Biking: A [Review](#)*)

I submit that a thrills-style track is properly reserved for a pump track sited off the hill and out of woods. A thrills-style build would create more wear and tear and require more maintenance.

Since I've already experienced how long current Arlington maintenance schedules took to fill an extremely dangerous 3 ft deep hole dug at Hill's Hill by unauthorized trail builders (3.5 weeks), I favor the latter more gentle design. It creates a place for bikers to chill and would require less maintenance.

- Will heavy equipment be used? Research says that the greatest effects on habitat occur when a new facility is first built. (*Mountain Biking: A [Review](#)*) Therefore ...

I favor less habitat destroying methods and a less intensive build.

- Why does the current feasibility study place the most habitat-destroying element in the most ecologically sensitive location--a woodlands-renewing meadow at the top of a hill where destabilization promotes erosion? The point of a pump track is to ride the circuit repeatedly without pedaling - so by definition it needs to be on average flat.

I favor removing the pump track from the top of Hill's Hill and siting it in a more open, less habitat-destroying location. The meadow habitat at the top of Hill's Hill shows signs of healthy renewal that I would hate to see arrested by the proposed project. (see Hill's Hill [Self-Guided Tour](#))

- Why are the proposed costs so high when other communities have built for less?
 - e.g., A pump track was built in Gorham Maine for \$13,500 in 2019 (plus in-kind contributions of heavy equipment and donation of dirt) - <https://www.gorhamtimes.com/gorhams-pump-track-opens-to-bikers/>
- How will maintenance be assured?

CPA does not fund maintenance, but maintenance is critical. A survey of builders and near-by parks documents damage incurred when wet tracks are ridden. One builder warns that volunteer maintenance promises rarely materialize, or they may not be immediately responsive to dangerous conditions. He urges that a maintenance plan with funding be in hand from the outset.

===== More Information =====

- **Hill's Hill Self-Guided Tour:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IP6oeNotSk-RbiwX2e67IxsJ319qhnxX/view?usp=sharing> shares a sampling of the high-value native species visible in and surrounding the meadow habitat. Native oak, hickory, big-tooth aspen, blueberry and blackberry patches with along with the insects and animals depending on them are what's at risk if measures aren't taken to protect them.
- **Designing specific trails to reduce the impact of mountain biking on habitat and wildlife in the Minett region of Luxembourg,** Jan Herr, Europarc Federation - <https://www.europarc.org/case-studies/designing-specific-trails-to-reduce-the-impact-of-mountain-biking-on-habitat-and-wildlife-in-the-minett-region-of-luxembourg/>

[luxembourg/](#)

- Need for compromise for nature conservation and recreation to exist alongside.
- MTB-trails need to be challenging and attractive. [Note: the pump track would provide that challenge]
- Designating MTB-trails and advertising them alone is not enough to ensure that other areas stay quiet. Advertisement needs to better convey the message that **riding outside the official trails is forbidden**.
- Sensitive areas or trails that have to remain quiet need to be physically closed off.

- ***Mountain Biking: A Review of the Ecological Effects*** 2010
<https://www.lib.washington.edu/msd/norestriction/b67566091.pdf>

This report notes that relatively few new environmental impacts result if existing walking trails are re-purposed for biking at low speeds following existing elevation lines. However vegetation removal increases as soil compaction increases with repeated riding and especially jump landings. "...careful planning, maintenance (e.g., construction of water bars, berming or banking corners, ensuring proper drainage, avoiding steep slopes or loose erodible soils) and designation of trails to specific uses (and seasonal trail closures) may help mitigate against some of the more serious effects of mountain bike recreation to soils (Marion & Wimpey 2007, Goeft & Alder 2001). In discussions of best practices, researchers mentioned that cycling technique also influences the level of impact on soils, with braking/skidding and cutting switchbacks creating the most damage (Callahan 2008, Morlock et al. 2006, Marion & Wimpey 2007).

- ***"Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sports venues" (2019)*** (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48345>) talks about [nature-responsible ways of building](#) new sport venues.

The Report observes: "Wherever a new sports venue is built, or the refurbishment of an existing venue is undertaken, it is likely that biodiversity will be affected by that development, ... Sports organisations, public authorities and financial institutions as well as those involved in the actual construction and decommissioning of venues all have a role to play in managing the range of impacts that sport venues may have on biodiversity."

(<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2019-004-En.pdf>)

- **Cycling Trails through a natural area create "edge effects" that can separate populations of plants and animals. This should be considered in the design.**

For example - placing bike trails on the perimeter would preserve continuity in the center of Hill's Hill woods and meadow.

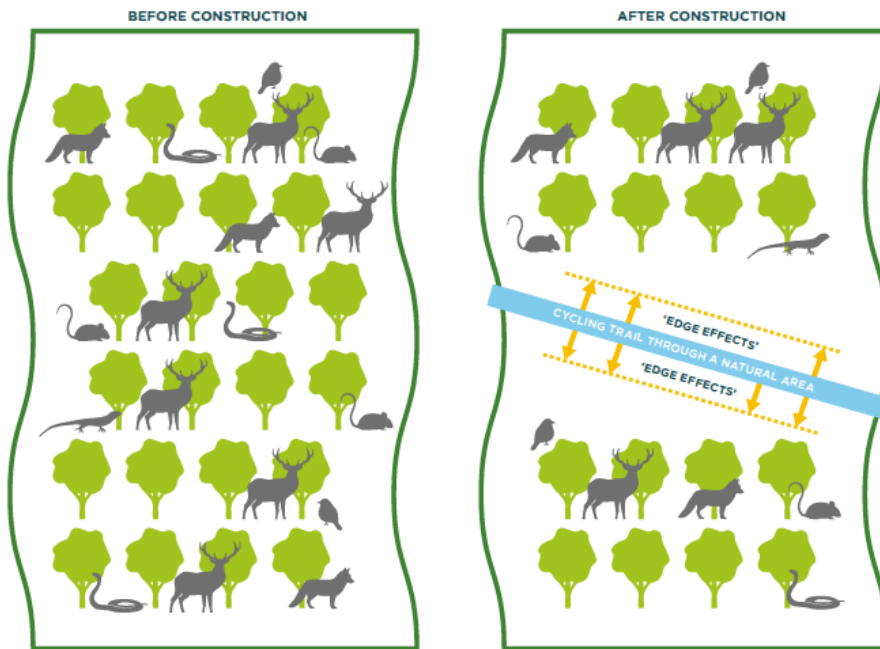


Figure 3: Edge effects

--

===

Elaine Crowder, Ph. D.
TMM Pct. 19

From: [Peggy Gardiner](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) bike park
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 12:44:04 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.



12:35 PM (6 minutes ago)

Dear Mr. Feeney,

I am writing because I am concerned about the proposed mountain bike park at Hill's Hill. Though I do not live in the immediate area, I am concerned with how little wooded park land we have in Arlington. I live on Menotomy Rocks Park and though people are well intentioned, and think they are doing the right thing by walking their dogs off leash early in the morning, the park is suffering from over use and adverse climate issues.

I think the same thing is happening to Hill's Hill. We need to provide more trees and care for the park land. At least there should be an audit to see what is the situation here and what is the best path forward. I am sure that there can be a compromise made between those who want a challenging bike course and those who want to preserve our park's natural habitat, encourage animals and birds to use this land and provide a cool, resting place for friends and neighbors.

Regards,
Peggy
Pauline Gardiner,
11 Menotomy Rocks Dr.
Peggy.gardiner@gmail.com

From: [Ficken, Jessica](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 4:03:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

I am an Arlington resident and I oppose the plan to place a pump track at Hill's Hill. Protecting the small amount of space that is left for wildlife and biodiversity in our town is far more important.

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Jessica

From: [Jessica Sullivan](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hills Hill- mountain bike trails
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 4:34:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I am writing concerning the proposed mountain bike trails and pump track at Hills Hill. I am opposed to the removing or disturbing any of Arlington's limited wooded areas. Arlington has, at this point, such a dearth of forested areas and open spaces to house wildlife that I do not believe that whatever benefit would come of a mountain bike track would outweigh the benefits of retaining forested area. Certainly the construction of a pump track in the middle of the woods would have a negative impact on the flora and fauna inhabiting the area. I urge the Committee to think of the natural habitat that exists at Hills Hill and the damage that the proposed project would inflict, particularly the pump track. The proposed project would also have a negative impact on those partial to enjoying the forest for what it naturally has to offer- wildlife habitats, native plants, and a connection to our natural world.

Thank you,

Jessica

From: [Asia Kepka](#)
To: JFeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill Application
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 5:17:18 PM
Attachments: [Hill's Hill .pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Jim,

Please find the attached letter regarding Hill's Hill proposal.

Thank you ,

Sincerely

Asia Kepka
17 Silk St

From: karen.klgwoman@town.arlington.ma.us
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 5:25:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Karen L. Grossman
781-646-5990

From: [Laura Kiesel](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) input on hill's hill
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 7:36:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Jim,

I hope you're doing well. I heard you are the point of contact for CPAC as they collect public comments on Hill's Hill, so I am forwarding my public comment below:

As an Arlington resident and natural resource scientist/conservation biologist by degree and training, I have serious concerns about the proposal to build a recreational bike park inside the Hill's Hill Woods.

As I am sure the folks on CPAC know, we have less than a decade to avert catastrophic climate change and we have already incurred quite an unacceptable amount of global warming that will wreak ecological devastation due to our collective inability to prioritize the preservation of forests and wetlands over development and recreation (of which we already have plenty of options).

Arlington is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as a town in proximity to major waterways that makes much of it a flood zone, and due to its susceptibility to microbursts. The microburst of 2012 (the second such one in only a couple of years) occurred shortly after I first moved to town. It not only caused extensive damage to my own apartment that took months to fix, but destroyed over 100 trees in Arlington. Over a decade later and as far as I know, Arlington has not only fallen short of replacing all of those lost trees as it promised to do (I actually covered this event as a journalist at the time), but has continued to get rid of existing tree cover, mostly in the name of progress and development.

Our town experienced another microburst this past summer, in 2022, and I am guessing we lost more trees at that time as well. Furthermore, this past summer, the Boston metro area experienced record droughts. This had huge effects on our wildlife, including frogs, turtles, herons, and waterfowl. Many of our reptiles and amphibians offer irreplaceable pest control. If we continue to lose them at the current rate, we will experience even huger upticks in ticks and mosquitoes and with that, insect-borne diseases like Lyme and Zika.

Climate scientists and other experts have been very clear that other than cutting down our use of fossil fuels, one of the most critical needs to averting catastrophic climate change is to maintain existing trees whenever possible and expand our tree canopy.

As a nature enthusiast and avid birder/wildlife watcher & photographer, I am also concerned as to the impact of this proposed project on the animals that call Hill's Hill home or temporary respite. We are already facing a mass extinction (the only in our world's known history to be caused by a single species--us). Bird species are particularly profoundly impacted and at great risk (and we rely on birds and other wildlife for our own survival as a species). Mountain biking is known to cause plant and soil erosion (causing carbon to leak, further adding to global warming), and is disruptive to wildlife (often causing them to flee or interrupting and in

some cases altogether their breeding or birthing of offspring), more so as compared to quieter outdoor activities like hiking and birding. Birds and other wildlife in urban and ex-urban ecosystems like Arlington rely on micro-habitats like Hill's Hill to survive. Eradicating these habitats will increase pressures on wildlife and threaten their longevity here.

This area of Massachusetts provides precious resources and habitats for both resident and migrating birds. Habitat fragmentation and development, along with climate change, is one of the most prominent threats to bird species, as well as other wildlife.

I also want to clarify: wildlife tourism offers way more revenue to the town's businesses than any mountain biking opportunities could ever do. Our resident owls and eagles have drawn people from all over the state and even other parts of New England and the Northeast. Hill's Hill is currently habitat to hawks and barred owls and many songbirds, which may be compromised or harmed by this development. Here is an op-ed (by a former colleague of mine) on the threats mountain biking poses to wild lands and wildlife:

<https://www.thewildlifeneeds.com/2019/06/18/impacts-of-mountain-biking/>

While walking and wildlife watching are more widely accessible activities available to people of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic statuses, the mountain bike project in its current iteration offers a premium avenue of recreation usually enjoyed primarily by people of *great privilege*--white, younger (though not usually little/small children) and often able-bodied. Not to mention, it is a hobby that tends to draw more affluent people--while likely being inaccessible to many people with disabilities and lower income people. This is also problematic.

I am aware that there are other alternatives for building the mountain bike trail that would in most cases minimize or even completely eliminate many of the environmental threats or concerns those of us opposing the current project site--but for some reason this compromise has not been entertained at all (building the track in a field rather than through one of Arlington last remaining forested lands).

I know it's tempting to take grant money and to cater to the demographics pushing for this project, but we need to have a reckoning with what we're really facing with climate change and start making difficult choices if we really do want to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. And since there are other viable alternative sites for this project, it seems like this doesn't even have to be a difficult choice because no one is really giving up anything if they get the mountain bike project somewhere else. But we are giving up on one of our last undeveloped green spaces/forested lands, and with it, diminishing our wildlife and natural resources, if the project moves forward as it is currently being proposed--which seems contrary to CPAC's mission.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Kiesel

From: [Mary Fusoni](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill project
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 8:38:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

I'm pretty darn busy these days with taking care of an ill relative and preparing for my own upcoming surgery. But I'm still taking a minute to send this pre-written letter because I feel strongly that the Mountain Bike project proposed for Hill's Hill is wrong for our town and for the environment in so many ways. In a more leisurely time I would redraft in my own words; on this day, please know that I wholeheartedly endorse all the words below.

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections we included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Mary Fusoni
94 Grandview Road

From: [Jessica Sullivan](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Re: Hills Hill- mountain bike trails
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:33:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Thank you!

On Friday, January 27, 2023 at 08:18:58 AM EST, Jim Feeney <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us> wrote:

Good morning Jessica,

Thank you for writing regarding this project. Your correspondence will be provided to the Committee in advance of their next meeting.

Best,

Jim

James Feeney
Deputy Town Manager
Town of Arlington
Arlington, MA 02476
(781) 316-3010

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Jessica Sullivan <jessullivan@yahoo.com>
To: "jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us" <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:34:15 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Hills Hill- mountain bike trails

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Arlington's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the REAL sender (whose email address in the From: line in "< >" brackets) and you know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing concerning the proposed mountain bike trails and pump track at Hills Hill. I am opposed to the removing or disturbing any of Arlington's limited wooded areas. Arlington has, at this point, such a dearth of forested areas and open spaces to house wildlife that I do not believe that whatever benefit would come of a mountain bike track would outweigh the benefits of retaining forested area. Certainly the construction of a pump track in the middle of the woods would have a negative impact on the flora and fauna inhabiting the area. I urge the Committee to think of the natural habitat that exists at Hills Hill and the damage that the proposed project would inflict, particularly the pump track. The proposed project would also have a negative impact on those partial to enjoying the forest for what it naturally has to offer- wildlife habitats, native plants, and a connection to our natural world.

Thank you,

Jessica

From: [Nancy Chew](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: [Atwood Cheung](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill application - please reject
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:12:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Jim,

I am writing to ask that you **reject** the current proposal to build a mountain bike park at Hill's Hill in Arlington.

In a time of heightened climate crisis, this proposal seems completely incongruent with an urgent call to action to save/preserve our natural habitats.

Earmarking \$400,000 to erect a man-made structure in the woods for mountain biking is not only environmentally irresponsible but fiscally lavish in a time of tightening municipal budgets. Surely as an environmentally progressive community, we have higher priorities?

I am hoping that CPAC acts on the 'Preservation' part of their mission and rejects this proposal.

Thank you for considering our input,

NANCY CHEW and ATWOOD CHEUNG
86 Mount Vernon Street
Homeowner since 2005
nancychev@verizon.net
617 851 5837

From: [David Harvey](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Park
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 12:16:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Mr. Feeney,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed mountain bike park in Hill's Hill. I have lived in Arlington more than 10 years and value the scarce woodlands and undeveloped areas. Prior to living in Arlington, I lived in Groton, MA, and as an elected member of the Conservation Commission there I witnessed first hand how mountain bikes, dirt bikes, and horses can damage pedestrian trails in woodlands and start highly destructive erosion. Mountain biking and similar activities also disturb what little wildlife remains. Please preserve the woods at Hill's Hill for pedestrian use only.

Thank you,

David Harvey
106 Newport Street
Arlington, MA 02476
781-316-2066
dharveyme@gmail.com

From: [Erik](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Trail
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 12:47:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Jim,

I'm writing to oppose the construction of a mountain bike park in the woodlands of Hill's Hill. I hope you will consider those voices of opposition and reject the proposal.

1. A mountain bike park would prefer the needs of a few over the needs of many: our need for natural greenspaces, primarily, and the ecological and health benefits they confer.
2. A mountain bike park which uses CPA funds leverages those CPA funds which could be used for affordable housing for an activity which is not readily available to people with certain disabilities.

- The CPA is supposed to be earmarked for at least 10% for affordable housing, and Arlington falls far short of it.
- This is during a time of an affordable housing crisis, in which the 10% minimum itself could be reasonably questioned.
- Yet, the current proposal earmarks funds for something which does not help make housing affordable and might, in fact, increase property values as an amenity, while catering to those who can afford mountain bike equipment/gear.

3. There are alternatives which do not disrupt our natural greenspaces and the ecosystems they support, and I urge you to consider those alternatives. The current proposal is not mandatory to meet the needs of the few who would utilize mountain biking infrastructure.

We are facing unprecedented issues maintaining our wildlife stock from rodenticides, and this would further burden our wildlife ecosystem, which itself draws a wider section of the population to Arlington for tourism than mountain biking.

Please reject the current proposal for the mountain bike park at Hill's Hill and consider less intrusive alternatives.

Thanks,

Erik Pohl
81 Everett St, Arlington, MA

From: [Aaron Dell](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Comment on the proposed bicycle infrastructure at Hill's Hill
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 1:25:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear all,

I am writing to ask that the CPA Committee not approve funding for the proposed bicycle infrastructure at Hill's Hill without also requiring that habitat conservation be a priority from the design phase through to construction. I am not opposed to cycling for recreation or otherwise; however, this fragment of urban green space is literally priceless, benefiting the health and well-being of Arlington's residents in ways that cannot be quantified and providing a home for other creatures, such as the barred owl Barry, who have a right to exist.

During a recent visit to Hill's Hill, I observed bicycle tracks in the snow and reflected that the children of our community have already told us where and how they would like to cycle on the hill. Recognizing and maintaining the trails that are already being used by cyclists would not require the expensive and destructive additional step of building a "pump track" in the middle of the hill. The hill's benefits to the community in its current form, such as providing a place for nature education and meditation (not to mention various ecological functions) need to be weighed alongside any perceived benefits of a "pump track."

Sincerely,
Aaron Dell
26B Brattle St

From: [R Kim](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 1:42:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Let's please create more green space, NOT less. We recently moved from Cambridge and it seems to us that Cambridge has more green space than Arlington. That really surprised us. We should spend the money to preserve and expand our green space. Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections.

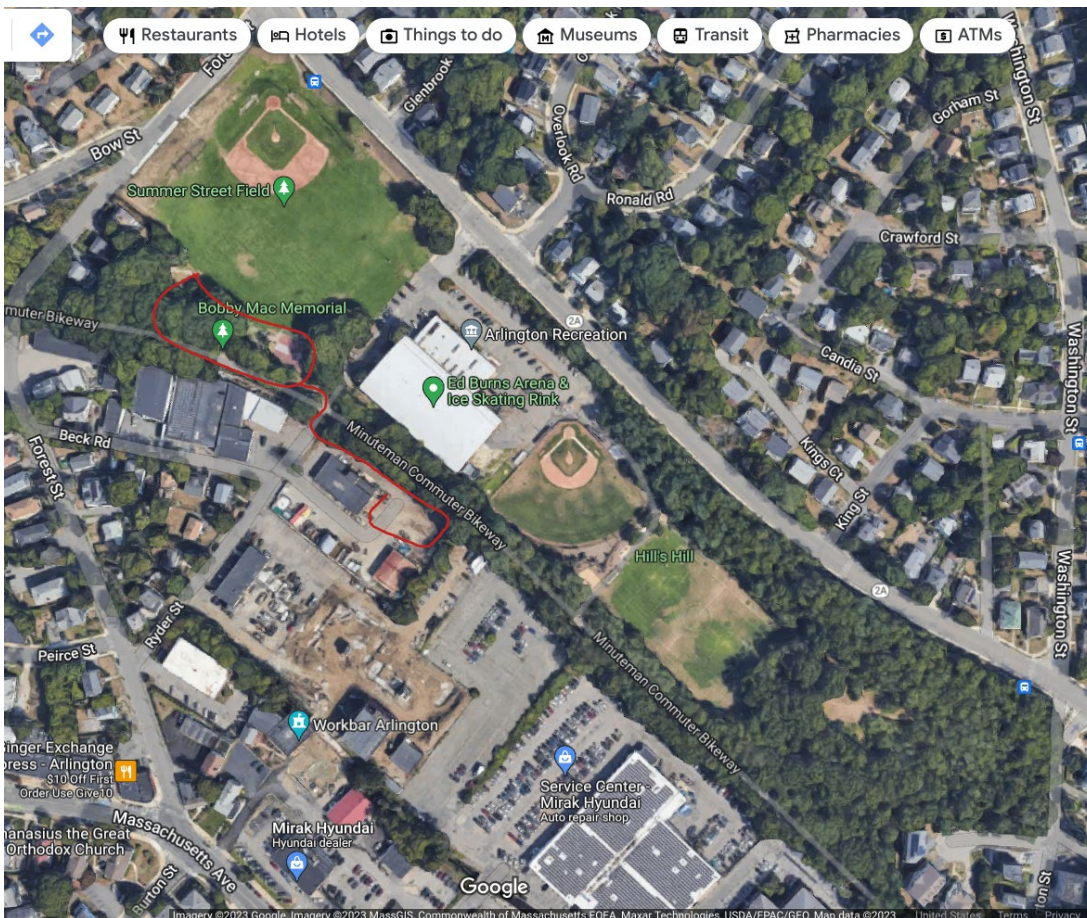
Thank you,

Robert Kim

From: [Gina Sonder](#)
To: clarissa.rowe@comcast.net; sdoctrowarltm@gmail.com; dswanson922@gmail.com
Cc: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Fwd: Attn: Community Preservation Act Committee
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 4:22:33 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2023-01-24 4.57.41 PM.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Clarissa Rowe, Chair of the CPA Cttee
Sue Doctrow, Co-chair
David Swanson, Co-chair



Perhaps Hills Hill is a small area of green space with tree cover in the larger scheme of things, but Arlington is a very dense town with a limited amount of wooded area on Town property. If the majority of the Arlington tax-paying residents are clamoring for a mountain bike track, please consider siting it adjacent to the bike path. I have marked two areas on the aerial view, above.

- 1.) Part of the current Ryder Street DPW Recycling Center paved area which I believe is a temporary location during construction of the new DPW; never-the-less, it is just used as part of a "drive-thru" Saturday recycling event once a month;
- 2.) Part of the former playground - a Bobby Mac Memorial Pump Track.

Last Friday, I sent a letter to Jim Feeney, to include as a comment on the current proposal.

Despite the fact that Arlington/Winchester/Stoneham have just been given a 40K grant to study sustainable landscaping guidelines on private property, this does not help the Town manage its open spaces in the immediate future. Please see my reasons for opposing the funding of a Pump-Track in Arlington using CPA funds at this time.

Sincerely,
Gina Sonder

----- Forwarded message -----

To: The Community Preservation Act Committee;

Preservation is the name of this committee, yet the Hills Hill Pump-Track project is, in part, Destruction of natural habitat - a scarce resource in Arlington.

- I am opposed to using CPA funds to build this project.
- I am opposed to siting this bicycle track in the middle of the woods.
- I am opposed to building unnecessarily on undisturbed undeveloped natural lands.

Use the \$400K to preserve or restore public property to make it more resilient and sustainable as the climate crisis becomes an ever larger factor in our lives.

If the public must have a Pump-Track, put it adjacent to the bike path where the land is not a wildlife habitat.

The Town of Arlington has declared that we are in a Climate Emergency* and every one of our projects should go towards mitigation of the effects of extreme weather. This, per the declaration, should be our focus for all Town projects.

I hope that the CPA Committee understands the gravity of the situation we face and takes appropriate steps now and in the coming years to fund proposals which promote a just and equitable transition as we navigate ways to be a more resilient community.

Sincerely,
Gina Sonder
Emergency Arlington

***June 2nd, 2021 Arlington became the twenty-third Massachusetts municipality to declare a climate emergency!**

cc: Arlington Town Manager

From: **Gina Sonder** <gina.sonder@gm.slc.edu>

Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 5:52 PM

Subject: Attn: Community Preservation Act Committee

To: <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>

--

"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery - not over nature but of ourselves."

- Rachel Carson, biologist, writer, conservationist (1907-1964)

Please note: messages sent via e-mail do not remain confidential.

From: [Bill Moyer](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) In Support of the Pump Track
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 5:09:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal support of the Hills Hill mountain bike park.

I believe this is an excellent use of this space to enable additional recreation options for the town.

I also believe a properly constructed park is a much better, safer, and more environmentally friendly option than individuals building a makeshift park themselves.

Please continue with the current plan and provide our kids a safe place to enjoy themselves.

Bill Moyer
49 Hillsdale Rd, Arlington, MA 02476

From: sbkline@rcn.com
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) NO to the project at Hill's Hill
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 5:31:50 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Committee--

The proposal to build the "Pump Track" project at Hill's Hill is tremendously concerning to us, as long-time Arlington residents.

Putting an 8,000 square foot course in the middle of the woods would decimate this vital environment.

We should certainly not fund this project without habitat protections.

While some essential town budgets are challenged, funds should not be allocated for this. How can we allocate Community Preservation Act funding on a project that harms the environment? That makes no sense.

People in Arlington are angry about this proposal. It's expensive and destructive.

Sincerely,

Susan Kline and Steve Shulman
Hopkins Road

From: [SUSAN LLOYD MCGARRY](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 5:32:10 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill. This application has major flaws including expense, destruction of the environment, and ruining the enjoyment of a public Arlington natural site for many others.

\$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds, especially when this will serve a very small minority of the town.

Please do not find this.

Thank you,
Susan Lloyd McGarry

I am concerned with people making their own tracks at Hill's Hill, Menotomy Rocks, and other town sites, but this is not the solution.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Maida Kaderian](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hills Hill concern
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:37:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Feeney,
Please do not build Hills Hill. I would like to see few and precious natural spaces preserved in Arlington.
Maida Kaderian
144 Brattle St
Arlington MA

From: [Steven Peterson](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:56:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. The project has serious flaws. Creating a bike track at high cost for a few Arlington residents should not come at the cost of destroying natural habitat available to all residents. A project of this type should be placed somewhere that has already been developed, if it is found to be appropriate for public funding at all. If the project must move forward, other areas of the park are more appropriate for such a project and are less used than the woods. Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Steven Peterson
29 Pleasant View Road

Sent from my iPad

From: [Gretchen Landwehr](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill Project - opposed
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 11:45:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gretchen Landwehr

From: [Peter Southwick](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 1:59:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds. This is not a good use of taxpayer funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all. For quite a few years, Hill's Hill has been a site at which people feel free to litter, party, drink alcohol, and set off fireworks which have started fires. This project would ensure that misuse of the land would continue into the future.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Peter Southwick
18 King Street
Arlington MA

From: [Diane Krause](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) PRC application for Hill's Hill
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023 5:37:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Jim & CPA Committee,

I'm opposed to the PRC application as it stands, and urge the CPA Committee to pause their application because there are too many unanswered questions. We need an environmental assessment and a design plan before funds should be approved.

This project will change open space to active recreation use. There has been no environmental study of the impact this will have on the existing open space. The PRC has been unresponsive when asked if a study could be done.

There is no provision for **maintenance**. CPA funds can't be used for maintenance. Arlington mountain bikers have stated that they will do the maintenance and that not a lot is involved. Google search disputes this, advising there can be issues with water and weeds. At a recent CPA meeting discussing a volunteer who has maintained the benches at Menotomy Rocks Park, PRC member Jen Rothenberg stated that the PRC can't rely on members of the public to maintain PRC properties. Does this also apply to the project at Hill's Hill?

Cost: In doing a google search, there are much lower build costs for a pump track: in Acton/Harvard the cost was \$10,000, a track in NH was in the low-teens. One builder suggests an abandoned parking lot or tennis court being ideal locations for a pump track, having stable bases. It seems locating the pump track in the meadow may be why the costs of this project is so high—\$50,000 for design and \$350,000 for pump track, trails and 2 skill zones. Considering the area is so small, 3.1 acres according to feasibility study, there probably isn't a lot of cost for the trails. So why so high? PRC went to only one builder for a cost estimate.

No survey of nearby tracks to understand choices and learn about maintenance issues.

PRC Commissioner Josh Fenollosa wrote a letter attached to the PRC application that states opponents are "change resistant" or that we don't want to allow kids to play in the woods because we say they will harm the woods. Opponents of the existing PRC plan are being labeled hysterical, over-reacting and anti-kid. **Adults and kids are allowed to ride bikes now on all trails in Arlington that the PRC manages.** I personally want kids to be in nature. I also want them educated about the damage their illegal trails are doing. I believe people on both sides of this issue care for nature. The difference seems to be in how much we use the limited open spaces we have here in Arlington. **There needs to be a distinction between mountain bike trails in the woods and a pump track or skill zone which can be placed anywhere.** The latter are often in flat, open spaces, like in Wakefield, where a pump track is behind a baseball field. Hill's Hill is small, it doesn't have the space for extensive trails that will serve mountain bikers, non-riders and a pump track. That is why a large group of us advocate **moving the pump track** out of meadow/woods. There are areas next to the bike path that are appropriate and will even provide shade for the pump track and skill zones.

I ask the CPA Committee to consider where letters of support are coming from, and to consider those from Arlington residents are more relevant to this issue than from mountain bikers who live in other towns.

We want the PRC to move the pump track out of the meadow/woods. Building it around mature trees and removing young trees will result in an unhealthy tree canopy in 20 years. We still don't know exactly what is planned, but the PRC obviously told the contractor to put the pump track in the meadow, regardless, apparently, of the cost.

Thank you for considering my views.

Diane Krause
High Haith Rd.

From: [Carey Theil](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 10:33:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Jim,

I wanted to go on the record in saying that I hope the proposed mountain bike park at Hill's Hill doesn't move forward.

I hope you are doing well!

Sincerely,
Carey

--

Carey M. Theil
Executive Director
[GREY2K USA Worldwide](#)

P.O. Box F
Arlington, MA 02476
[781-488-3526](#)
[617-501-6276](#) (cell)
[781-488-3529](#) (fax)
facebook.com/grey2kusa
twitter: @GREY2KUSA



Formed in February of 2001, GREY2K USA is the largest greyhound protection organization in the world. As a non-profit 501(c)4 organization based in the United States, we work to pass stronger greyhound protection laws and to end the cruelty of dog racing. We also promote the rescue and adoption of greyhounds across the globe.

From: [Sarah](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Save Hill's Hill Woods
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 11:30:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Feeney:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. **Expensive** - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. **Destructive** - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. **Divisive** - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.
4. **Disruptive** to adjoining quiet neighborhoods as there is potential for significant out of town traffic.

*And, finally **why not let kids do kid things without adults** having to get involved and "make it better."*

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Sarah and Austin Jackson
160 Westminster Ave

From: [Rebecca Peterson](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Save Hill's Hill !! Don't Destroy Green Space!
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 11:55:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please do NOT approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill. This project is very expensive at the very time Arlingont is talking about an override - it's not necessary!

Destroying woods and animal habitats so that people can ride mountain bikes is absurd. Many riders will not even be Arlington residents - do we want to subsidize their entertainment to the detriment of our own green space?

The flaws abound in this project - high cost, no protection for animals habitats, and many MANY residents being opposed.

Hill's Hill needs to be preserved. Please stop destroying woodland.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Peterson

31 Florence Ave.

From: [Eric Segal](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hills Hill
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:34:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Jim,

I'm writing about the proposed mountain bike park. I am not so concerned about saving the woods, but that does seem like a lot of money for something that not that many people will use, and will require maintenance every year.

I'd really rather see the money go into affordable housing, or something outdoors that more people will use.

Eric Segal
84 Milton St, Arlington, Ma 02474

From: [Casey Bishop](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:48:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee,

I am writing to you as a member of your community asking you to reconsider the proposals in the Community Preservation Act. Please **do not** approve funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without including strong, written habitat protections.

Hill's Hill is a cherished oasis in our community. Not only does it serve as a natural habitat for the wildlife of Arlington, but it is one of the few places in our city that offers such a necessary sanctuary from the surrounding built environment. As it currently stands, there are no habitat protections in the proposal. It would be utterly devastating to approve this funding without clear protections for this beloved space we share with our wild neighbors.

Most of the letters during community feedback opposed the construction of a bike park without significant adjustments to protect Hill's Hill. Fellow residents of Arlington have therefore made it clear that we require the preservation of Hill's Hill included in the Community Preservation Act.

Thank you for choosing to save Hill's Hill and include habitat protections in the Community Preservation Act.

Sincerely,
Casey Bishop

From: [Marcia Boston](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:49:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Marcia Boston

From: Naomi Bailis
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Regarding the MTB @ Hill's Hill
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:58:04 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr.Feeney.

We are writing to you to express objections and large concerns and to/about the PRC proposal to build dirt bike trails and a pump track at Hill's Hill. I live at 10 Summer Hill Circle, my family and I would be the most direct abutters to the proposed project. While my family does not completely object to the bike trails, we strenuously object to the construction of a pump track in the meadow of Hill's Hill. Besides the destruction of the meadow, this will certainly entail a considerable noise pollution and overcrowding issue for us and all of Summer Hill Circle, both during construction and after construction.

PRC's application requests \$400,000.00, but does not specify how this money would be used. No design options for the MTB have been developed; there is only a single feasibility study, from Powderhorn Trail Company, chosen by PRC to conduct that study.

Trails have already been constructed in the woods, despite PRC prohibitions against trail-building. The MTB would further develop those trails, add a skills area along the bike path, and construct a pump track in the meadow at the top of the hill. And since there is currently no access to that meadow, a road would need to be cut for the machinery needed to build the pump track.

There is a compromise position, which would allow the use of the trails in the woods, and also preserve the meadow: simply reposition the pump track at the bottom of the hill beside the soccer field. This spot already has good access both for building the track, and in the event of future need for emergency services; and it would likely be much less expensive to build here because the area is level and without the exposed ledge found in the meadow. My family could potentially support such a compromise. Here is a link to the Eco Track Solution
<https://savehillshill.com/eco-track-solution>

Hill's Hill is one of Arlington's very few remaining unimproved, wild public lands. These areas amount to about 170 acres, or less than 5% of our 3,517 total acres. The top of Hill's Hill is a rejuvenating meadow, with diverse and interdependent species of trees and plants, as well as habitat for many creatures. It provides habitat, passive recreation, and cooling space in a heat island area.

Proponents say there are no recreation options for our middle-school aged kids. In fact, we have the McClennan skateboard park; a rock climbing structure at Wellington

Park; the Minuteman bike path to Bedford; basketball courts at many sites in town; Spy Pond canoe and kayak rentals; fields available for informal games; skating at Ed Burns arena; swimming at the Reservoir; the Boys & Girls Club; and many excellent soccer, lacrosse, baseball, hockey and other team sport opportunities the Recreation Department provides for town tweens and teens. Plus, over 40 parks and playgrounds, many currently undergoing restoration; new athletic facilities coming to the new HS; the recently renovated Community Center, home to new activities; two libraries; Arlington Continuing Education programs; etc. By any measure, recreation is well established here!

Furthermore, Hill's Hill is a small area, how much damage will be done by building there? There will likely be a lot of bikers from other communities, leading to heavy use. The MTB requires sacrificing open space/woodland to build a sports facility. What PRC is planning is different from any other Park & Rec projects CPAC has approved. They're changing the current use of a woodland/open space. Their proposal is single use, i.e., mountain biking. What about walkers using the area to get to sports fields/rink, birders, dog walkers, etc.? How will this area be shared, as supporters have claimed it can be? The Bike Path is level, paved, with long sight lines and there are still accidents. How will hilly, roughly surfaced, twisting paths with jumps, high speeds, and blind corners be used by riders and walkers, never mind dog walkers?

Have conflicting uses been discussed with Powderhorn, and will they be considered in the design proposal? To get design options you have to tell the designer your criteria/parameters Why not share these? The current estimate of \$400,000 will likely be closer to \$500,000 by the time construction begins. CPAC funds are taxpayer dollars, and \$400,000 is a big ask.

There is no current plan or budget for on-going maintenance or longer-term repairs. Where is the study identifying need, likely user numbers, etc.? CPAC is being asked to award a very large sum for a completely formless idea. A study could identify many things:

- How many Arlington residents do we expect to regularly use the park?

- How many non-Arlington residents?

- What provision will be made for abutters of the park to control possible noise, after-hours use, and parking issues?

- What happens if the volunteer maintenance falls short?

- What happens if use is so heavy that trails are damaged?

- What is the budget for repair (as opposed to regular maintenance)?

- MTB is considered a high-risk sport. What happens if someone is seriously injured, with the limited access to the proposed area?

A good alternative to the proposed pump track site exists, at the bottom of the hill.

- Bottom of hill is much easier for machinery to access—no tree clearing needed

- Much better access for emergency services, if ever needed

- No exposed rock, which Powderhorn has cited as a negative to the hilltop site

- Likely quite a bit less expensive to create pump track there, because of

the above factors

Would provide a sound/activity buffer for **Washington St/Summer Hill Circle residents**, some of whom have expressed concerns

The pump track's construction will be irreversible. Environmental impact is not just as simply remediated as "we'll only cut a few trees and replant." This is an ecosystem, not just individual trees. All our wild areas are under pressure to accommodate additional and multiple uses. We must protect them from encroachment, no matter how well-intentioned. In addition to habitat, they provide areas of cooling and peace in our ever **hotter, noisier, and more crowded world**. Hill's Hill is used by walkers, runners, dog walkers, photographers, people who just want to step into the woods for a few minutes of peace. The site is used and loved as is!

— Over 80% of respondents to the 2022-2029 draft Open Space survey feel the town has a good variety of playing fields and playgrounds.

— Less than 20% feel the town does a good job prioritizing investment and protection of open spaces.

— 60% want more urban tree canopy.

— 60% want more unstructured recreation park space.

Lastly...

- the 2020 Envision survey found that the top four priorities for parks and open space are:

plant more street trees

invest in green infrastructure

invest in native plants

create/conservate more open space

The bottom four priorities:

build more park amenities and play structures

maintain playing fields

improve wayfinding

other

Please do not move forward with this project as described in the feasibility study this past summer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Naomi Bailis , Jennifer Hruska, Pablo Hruska and Jade Hruska
10 Summer Hill Circle

From: [Sherry Reisner](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No to Preservation Funds for a Pump Track
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 1:55:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

I'm fairly certain you are getting plenty of emails opposing the use of Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill. I'm in agreement with arguments that say the proposal is:

- Harmful to precious wooded space in Arlington. Even if the proposal had habitat protections, why cut into a much-needed, scarce resource — undeveloped wooded land — at a time of climate change and shrinking wildlife habitats? Please consider other locations. The pump track proposal may favor a shady wooded location knowing that our summers are likely to have more blazing hot days. Point made. Protect *all* of the woods.
- Costly. \$400K is a big chunk of change for a project that serves a niche population.

I'd like to add one more objection to the location of the pump track at Hill's Hill that came to mind after watching the YouTube video. If Arlington is to build a pump track, it should be placed in a location that maximizes accessibility by ambulances!

Seriously.

Children and teens are likely to be the main users. How long will a child have to lie on the ground with a compound fracture or head injury waiting for first responders to make their way to Hill's Hill? Even the narrator says that pump tracks aren't forgiving. So let's forego the current pump track plan and come up with a better location that protects this natural habitat, preserves Arlingtons "lungs," and considers the potential emergency medical needs of pump track enthusiasts.

Best regards,
Sherry Reisner
67 Churchill Avenue

From: [Alice Bennett](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) CPAC Funding RQ
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 2:06:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I have several concerns regarding an exceedingly large funding request that will be forthcoming in the near future. This potential request is funding for a Mt. Biking course/trail at Hill's Hills. This lovely, small natural space is a bird watcher's paradise, dog walker area for neighbors with native plants and trees. I question how they could share this space with a mountain bike trail and pump track.

There is no apparent concrete written design layout with materials, environmental impact study, or feasibility study to my knowledge.

This seems to benefit only a small portion of fit individuals of a certain age. I feel this must have a more in-depth study with concrete written plans in place prior to moving forward.

Respectfully

Alice Bennett (Arlington tax paying resident)

From: gaylenamchuk@gmail.com
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 5:56:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Just in case a decision has not yet been made on the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill, I am submitting this letter a little late. I agree with the reasons outlined in the letter below but also want to point out that the current rough proposal locating the pump track at the top of the hill would also remove the currently used pedestrian cut through path as well as present a greater soil erosion issue. I think an ecologically sensitive proposal ('Ecotrack' or similar) would be a great addition to the recreational offerings in town (unstructured recreation for tweens/teens). I just don't think the current proposal balances the current use and value of this wooded area with the added recreational intent.

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections.

This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Gayle Namchuk
64 Wright St, Arlington
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Gina Sonder](#)
To: clarissa.rowe@comcast.net; sdoctrowarltm@gmail.com; dswanson922@gmail.com
Cc: [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Re: Attn: Community Preservation Act Committee
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2023 8:47:49 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2023-01-24 4.57.41 PM.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Clarissa, Dave, & Sue,

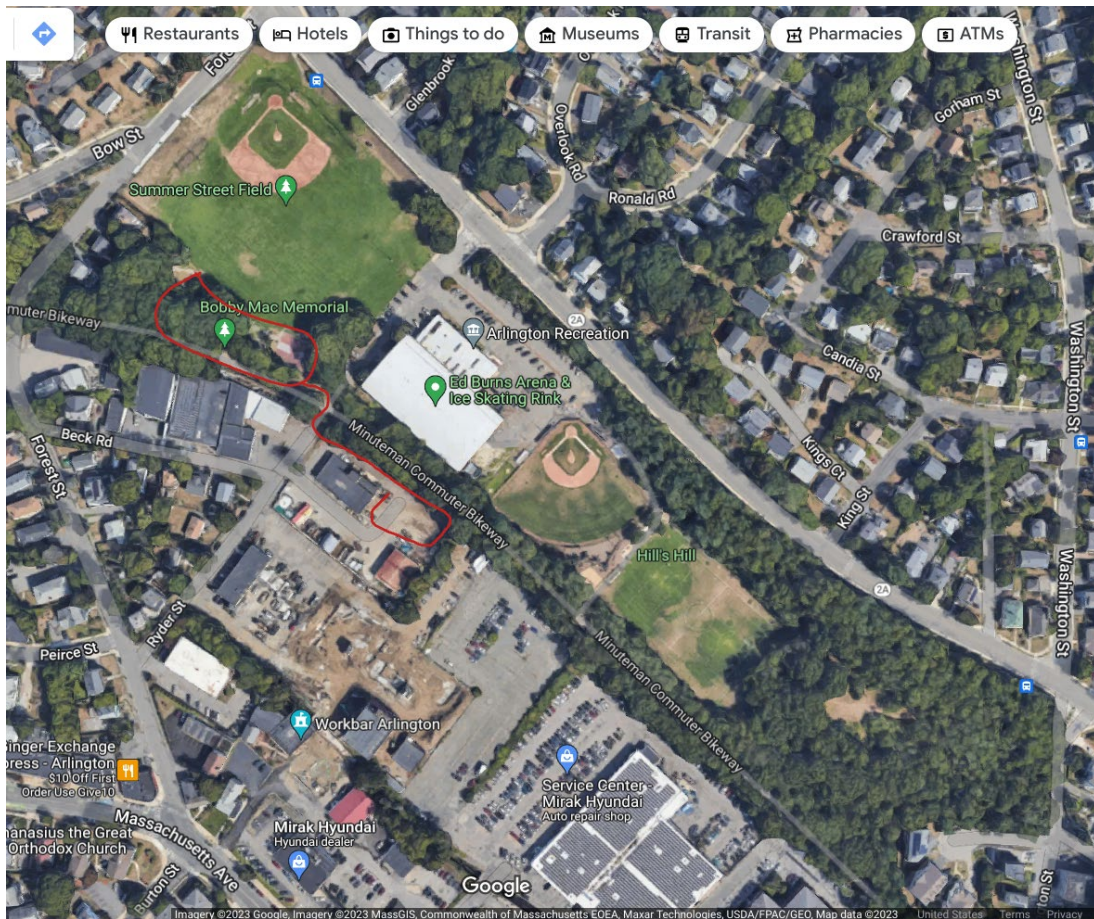
Thank you for your diligent work and taking all the comments into consideration for this project.

Now that I have heard the presentation and your feedback, I feel quite differently about the endeavor and am more confident that this project will respect and perhaps even enhance the Hills Hill property. The prospect that the track will follow the land and travel between and amongst the natural vegetation (both existing and newly planted) and not be a rectangle cut into the woods as was shown in the preliminary proposal makes a huge difference to me. I look forward to seeing the process move forward under your watch.

Sincerely,
Gina

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 4:22 PM Gina Sonder <gina.sonder@gm.slc.edu> wrote:

Clarissa Rowe, Chair of the CPA Cttee
Sue Doctrow, Co-chair
David Swanson, Co-chair



Perhaps Hills Hill is a small area of green space with tree cover in the larger scheme of things, but Arlington is a very dense town with a limited amount of wooded area on Town property.

If the majority of the Arlington tax-paying residents are clamoring for a mountain bike track, please consider siting it adjacent to the bike path. I have marked two areas on the aerial view, above.

- 1.) Part of the current Ryder Street DPW Recycling Center paved area which I believe is a temporary location during construction of the new DPW; never-the-less, it is just used as part of a "drive-thru" Saturday recycling event once a month;
- 2.) Part of the former playground - a Bobby Mac Memorial Pump Track.

Last Friday, I sent a letter to Jim Feeney, to include as a comment on the current proposal. Despite the fact that Arlington/Winchester/Stoneham have just been given a 40K grant to study sustainable landscaping guidelines on private property, this does not help the Town manage its open spaces in the immediate future. Please see my reasons for opposing the funding of a Pump-Track in Arlington using CPA funds at this time.

Sincerely,
Gina Sonder

----- Forwarded message -----

To: The Community Preservation Act Committee;

Preservation is the name of this committee, yet the Hills Hill Pump-Track project is, in part, Destruction of natural habitat - a scarce resource in Arlington.

- I am opposed to using CPA funds to build this project.
- I am opposed to siting this bicycle track in the middle of the woods.
- I am opposed to building unnecessarily on undisturbed undeveloped natural lands.

Use the \$400K to preserve or restore public property to make it more resilient and sustainable as the climate crisis becomes an ever larger factor in our lives.

If the public must have a Pump-Track, put it adjacent to the bike path where the land is not a wildlife habitat.

The Town of Arlington has declared that we are in a Climate Emergency* and every one of our projects should go towards mitigation of the effects of extreme weather. This, per the declaration, should be our focus for all Town projects.

I hope that the CPA Committee understands the gravity of the situation we face and takes appropriate steps now and in the coming years to fund proposals which promote a just and equitable transition as we navigate ways to be a more resilient community.

Sincerely,

Gina Sonder

Emergency Arlington

***June 2nd, 2021 Arlington became the twenty-third Massachusetts municipality to declare a climate emergency!**

cc: Arlington Town Manager

From: **Gina Sonder** <gina.sonder@gm.slc.edu>

Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 5:52 PM

Subject: Attn: Community Preservation Act Committee

To: <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>

--

"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery - not over nature but of ourselves."

- Rachel Carson, biologist, writer, conservationist (1907-1964)

Please note: messages sent via e-mail do not remain confidential.

From: [Clarissa Rowe home](#)
To: [Julie Wayman](#); [Jim Feeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Fwd: Thank you!
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2023 11:38:03 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian McBride <brianmcb@outlook.com>
Date: February 1, 2023 at 9:21:21 PM EST
To: Clarissa Rowe home <clarissa.rowe@comcast.net>
Subject: Thank you!

Thanks so much for the opportunity to speak tonight.

The Save Hill's Hill group would be delighted with a new direction where the project funds were limited to the development of a consensus design, with specific habitat protections, prior to funding for a build.

We appreciate the CPAC's effort to find a sensible middle path for Hill's Hill.

Best regards,

Brian McBride
m (617) 645-8729

From: [Lars Bjune](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2023 8:47:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carsten Russ](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Monday, February 06, 2023 7:51:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds. Also this money could be better spent on roads, planting more trees etc
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Carsten

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Ian Wickersham](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) opposition to Hill's Hill project
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2023 9:58:03 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Feeney, I'd like to register my strong opposition to the proposed pump track project at Hill's Hill. There is little woodland remaining in Arlington, and it should be left as undisturbed as possible. A pump track sounds like a great idea for somewhere else that isn't important natural habitat. Please change this plan.

Best regards,
Ian Wickersham, 92 Orient Ave.

From: [Sara Beach](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2023 1:23:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I'm writing to express my opinion that mature woods should not be disrupted in order to build a recreational bike track. Please seek an alternate site!

Thank you,
Sara Beach
94 Orient Ave

From: [Joseph Davis](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hills hill doesn't need a pump track
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2023 9:03:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi - I live about 1/4 mile from hills hill and I'm a longtime mountain biker. I also hike the same trails I ride because that's fun too! The existing trails should be improved with modern trail building techniques to preserve as much as possible. I feel like folks who don't know much about riding in the woods come up with the idea of pump tracks. But they want something like a pump track in town to list as an amenity and to boost property values. And have zero intention of ever riding on such a thing.

Besides there's already a very nice one in Allston.

If a proper pump track were built along the perimeter of those woods as designed, it might be the largest pump track in the US! Pump tracks are short and challenging. It's a skill to learn but not something you ride again and again once you've figured out the body weight and balance needed to get through a particular track.

I'm all for promoting better trail use and trail etiquette but a pump track only serves 1 type of user and a very narrow type of riding. The trails are fine already and they should just be improved.

This would be a giant waste of money and I highly doubt it would even be used all that much after a while.

Pump tracks are a recent fad and should never be built in the woods where a trail already exists. To turn a trail that's fit for walking or riding into a pump track for a very narrow type of biker would be a big mistake.

I feel like some of the push behind this pump track idea is to rid the town of spaces for coyotes to hide by getting mountain bikers into those woods.

Thank you,

Joe Davis
12 Chatham Street
Arlington

From: Muc162psu@yahoo.com
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 9:54:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

May Resident of Arlington

From: [MARK OGILVIE](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Sunday, February 12, 2023 9:05:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you, Colleen Ogilve
Resident of Turkey Hill, Arlington

From: [Clarissa Rowe home](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#); [Julie Wayman](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Fwd: Hills Hill NOT a Preservation project
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023 2:59:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
Date: February 13, 2023 at 2:54:38 PM EST
To: Clarissa Rowe <clarissa.rowe@comcast.net>
Cc: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Subject: Hills Hill NOT a Preservation project
Reply-To: MJBROWN246@gmail.com

Dear Clarissa,

When I voted for the CPA to be added to my taxes, I thought it would go to only **preserving** historic buildings, **preserving** natural resources, etc. So I do not think CPA money should be spent on **NOT** preserving one of the few remaining undeveloped areas in Town. Building trails for mountain biking thru Hills Hill does not preserve anything: in fact, it does the opposite. It destroys one of the few "natural" areas left in Town. If mountain biking is a Town priority then the costs (the \$400,000 just for construction) should come from the normal Recreation budget. Please pass on these thoughts to the CPA committee and thank you for all your service to the Town.

Michael Jacoby Brown
10 Brattle Terrace, Arlington, MA 02474
about 100 feet from Hills Hill
TMM, Pct 17

--

Michael Jacoby Brown
10 Brattle Terrace
Arlington, MA 02474 USA
Mobile: 617 645 0226
author: *Building Powerful Community Organizations*
Pronouns he, him, his
www.MichaelJacobyBrown.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws58VrYAVuY>

From: [Melanie MacFarlane](#)
To: ifeeney@town.arlington.ma.us; jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: [Joe Connelly](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Support for Hill's Hill
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 11:41:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Act Committee,

I'm writing in support of the proposed bike trails at Hill's Hill.

As an Arlington parent, I'm grateful for our parks and I support fully optimizing them for recreation in general, in particular providing space for mountain biking, something Arlington doesn't have and needs. We have so many playgrounds and ample space for younger children and team sports, but very little dedicated park space for teenagers outside of team sports, which not everyone can do.

I applaud the kids who have taken the initiative to clean up Crusher Lot and Hill's Hill and exercised a valuable civic right to propose innovative and responsible use of their town's land for recreational activities. [Mountain biking interest is growing nationally](#) and Arlington should great this growing interest with a dedicated space that encourages people to exercise more year round. Mountain biking trails bring kids and families together outside in nature, teaches respect for nature, promotes the use of the town's parks by more people, and is good for our local bike and sporting goods store businesses.

Giving our teens a space for alternative recreating like mountain biking promotes activity and gives them a sense of ownership and agency of the space (far better than passively loitering). Not every kid plays team sports or can afford sports fees; adding trails and allowing mountain biking encourages inclusivity and access to sports that not everyone has. A used bike is much more affordable than sports that come with fees.

Neighboring towns have Whipple Hill (Lexington), Beaver Brook (Belmont/Waltham), and the Fells (Winchester/Woburn), where mountain biking is enjoyed simultaneously with other activities. I walk my dog, hike, and snow shoe in all of these parks and regularly cross paths with mountain bikers without incident. There is room for everyone, and we need only look at our current town parks to see how well our land is used for multiple activities and how people are capable of sharing space.

I'm deeply disturbed by the propaganda of opponents who claim that mountain biking threatens nature, specifically the owls. "Save the owls" is conflating the actual issue of rat poison killing the Great Horned Owl family in Menotomy Rocks park. This rhetoric is offensive and promotes misinformation; riding bikes in a park during the day poses absolutely no threat to nocturnal birds, or any other birds, because bikes are not in the path of birds. I hope the Community Preservation Committee doesn't fall prey to a desperate and disingenuous scare tactic.

Our kids want to be outside and have a small dedicated space on town property for mountain biking. This is a good investment in our kids and our town land, and I hope the Committee

will embrace this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Melanie MacFarlane
144 Scituate Street
Arlington, MA

From: [Caitlin Sweeney](#)
To: ifeeney@town.arlington.ma.us; jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill park
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 12:04:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Act Committee,

I am writing in support of the proposed mountain bike trails at Hills Hill.

Why am I in support? Because I'm a parent to three kids who love being outside. As a family, we bike together. It's a way to keep our family close, to explore nature, get exercise and have fun, and we've searched for ways to do that in our town. The proposed site is ideal as it's on the campus of the Recreation Center and adjacent to the bike path.

But my support goes far beyond that because biking is one of the few recreational activities my oldest son can participate in. He has paralysis in his left leg. His disability has made all the typical sports many kids in our community participate in like soccer, basketball, hockey, utterly impossible for him. Weekends when his classmates and their families gather at a field or in a gym for a soccer or hockey game, he has always been excluded.

But when he found biking - a sport where he could rely on his strong right leg to propel the bike forward, his world changed. Finally he was able to be just "one of the kids." He could meet up with his friends, burn off some energy, and have a normal, ordinary experience perhaps many of us take for granted.

I've heard the argument that bike trails at Hills Hill are inappropriate because all of Arlington's open land should be preserved. Thankfully, we are so fortunate to have conservation land close to Hills Hill including Mount Gilboa and Turkey Hill. In addition, Arlington has walking trails in Menotomy Rocks Park, the Crusher Lot, The Great Meadow, Spy Pond, Robbins Farm and many more. However, what we are missing is a place for kids to recreate outside of organized sports. As Arlington strives to be more inclusive, we cannot ignore our youngest residents who may not have the ability or inclination to join a town team. They too should have public spaces for exercise.

Finally, we have all been impacted by COVID, but it's especially taken a toll on our youth. Before the pandemic, nearly half (49.5%) of all kids under 18 reported feeling anxious, depressed and/or stressed. According to the National Institute of Health, COVID has significantly increased those numbers. Arlington is not immune.

And yet, there are studies that point to the incredible benefits recreation has in lowering fear, stress and anxiety among young people. As a parent, I've seen firsthand how my kids' moods are lifted when they've spent time outside biking with friends, and how they form relationships, learn resilience and build confidence.

It is ironic that little attention was paid to the Crusher Lot or Hills Hill until the proposal came forward. No one was clamoring to preserve or even clean up those lands until the kids wanted

to ride their bikes there. The kids were the ones with trash bags, picking up broken glass and empty beer cans. As a result, they have learned to be good stewards of the land and to respect the environment because it is nature that provides a playground for them. We often hear complaints that kids should get off of screens yet when they come forward to ask for space to do just that, there are some who say no.

The proposed bike park dovetails with Arlington's recent efforts to make the Town's open spaces universally accessible. When my son was little, he used a medical walker. At the time, all of Arlington's parks either had sand or bark mulch which prevented him from accessing the play structures on his own with his walker. A visit to a playground always ended in frustration and tears. The movement to make our recreational spaces more inclusive shouldn't be restricted to our structured playgrounds.

We have an incredible opportunity to answer a very clear need in our community by providing a public space for our kids to recreate, where all kids regardless of age or ability can participate.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Sweeney

28 Grandview Rd
Arlington, MA 02476

Caitlin Sweeney
Principal, C Sweeney Design
www.csweeneydesign.com

From: [Heather Breslau](#)
To: ifeeney@town.arlington.ma.us; jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: [Joe Connelly](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Support for Hill's Hill mountain bike trails
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 1:29:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Act Committee,

I am writing in support of the proposed mountain bike trails at Hill's Hill.

My husband and I are raising our 3 children in Arlington. All are active in numerous sports leagues and activities across town and we take advantage of Arlington's outdoor spaces. We enjoy biking as a family to spend time together and explore nature. We appreciate that cycling is a lifelong activity and crosses generations and abilities. And that it doesn't require organized "teams" and "coaches" to bring kids together in ways that help them form relationships, learn resilience, and build confidence. The proposed site is ideal as it's on the campus of the Recreation Center and adjacent to the bike path that many families and children can access easily.

It is ironic that little attention was paid to the Crusher Lot or Hill's Hill until the proposal came forward. No one was clamoring to preserve or even clean up those lands until the kids wanted to ride their bikes there. The kids were the ones with trash bags, picking up broken glass and empty beer cans. As a result, they have learned to be good stewards of the land and to respect the environment because it is nature that provides a playground for them. We often hear complaints that kids should get off of screens yet when they come forward to ask for space to do just that, there are some who say no.

The proposed bike park dovetails with Arlington's recent efforts to make the Town's open spaces universally accessible. We've made great improvements with the playgrounds in recent years. The movement to make our recreational spaces more inclusive shouldn't be restricted to our structured playgrounds.

We have an incredible opportunity to answer a need in our community by providing a public space for our kids to recreate, where all kids regardless of age or ability can participate.

Thank you for your consideration,
Heather Breslau
20 Hodge Rd
Arlington, MA 02474

--

Heather M. Breslau
Cell: 617-596-1361

From: [Danuta Forbes](#)
To: ifeeney@town.arlington.ma.us; jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us; [Clarissa Rowe](#); [Sue Doctrow](#); [David F. Swanson](#)
Cc: [Joe Connelly](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Mountain bike trails at Hills Hill
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:56:28 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing again to emphasize my support for the mountain bike trail proposal for Hills Hill. I was a vocal advocate of bringing the CPA to Arlington, and this project is the kind of thing that I used to convince many neighbors and friends to support voting for the CPA. As a former town meeting member, I was always impressed with the CPA committees' careful and thorough description of projects and proposals, and I have confidence that under the stewardship of the CPA committee, they will find a way to support this project and make the community happy with the results.

I have heard the concerns that the project would take down trees, destroy the natural environment and deter wildlife. I will personally start a Go Fund Me project to buy more trees to replace any that will be removed for the trails, and gather a number of youth and community members to help plant those trees. Hills Hill has long been neglected, and these trails will not only contribute to making Arlington a desirable destination for exercising enthusiasts, but also increase our kids' exposure to and respect of the environment and teach them to be good land stewards. As for the owls and other wildlife, you only have to look at Whipple Hill and Menotomy Rocks Park (among others) to see that bikers, walkers, birds, deer and owls can live harmoniously.

More importantly, the pandemic, increased time on screens and academic stress, and an uber-competitive sports environment in town has not helped the mental health of many kids I know, and has contributed to a feeling of not belonging among many preteens and teens (over 60% of AHS kids last year felt like they didn't belong). Having another outlet for physical exercise and enjoying the outdoors will benefit us all, not just the teens that desperately need to get off screens and be outdoors, but provide a unique and interesting recreational outlet to add to all the wonderful things we love about living in Arlington. Let's not let the loud voices of a few drown out a part of the community that would benefit from these trails, and make us proud to live in Arlington.

In addition, I think it's wonderful that the Rec Dept plans to offer mountain bike classes and have bikes available for use for kids who don't have a bike of their own. I wish my family were into biking, they are not, but perhaps if there were a beautiful space dedicated to biking trails, I might just be able to get them out there sometime.

Please consider all those voices that you haven't heard from, including mine, and share this with the CPA committee.

Thank you for your time,

Danuta Forbes

4 Iroquois Road
Former TMM, Precinct 10

From: ritateusch@verizon.net
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) hills hill development
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7:05:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I wanted to write because I oppose the establishment of a mountain bike course on hills hill. Mostly for environmental reasons, but also because the project is too expensive and divisive.

Thank you for considering this email.

Best,

Rita Teusch

100 Churchill Ave

Arlington, MA 02476

From: [Josh Martin](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hill's Hill Project
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:27:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Mr. Feeney,

I am a long time Arlington resident, and, out of concerns about the environmental impact, I am writing to express my opposition to proposed establishment of a mountain bike course on Hill's Hill..

Thank you for your attention to this.

Regards,
Josh Martin
100 Churchill Ave
Arlington, MA 02476

From: [Lambert, Brett](#)
To: [jfeeney](#)
Subject: (Archive Copy) Hills Hill Pump Track
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:42:31 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Morning Jim,

I have been noticing the SaveHillsHill signs going up around my neighborhood and was surprised to see that this is an organization opposing the installation of a mountain bike pump track at that location. The website listed your email address as the place to 'take action', so I am writing to you to say that I support efforts to make Hill's Hill a public recreational spot for mountain bikers.

I feel that Hill's Hill's adjacency to the ice rink complex, the parking lot, and the Minuteman Bike Trail make it an great location for a public pump track. I think it would be a great addition to the town's public outdoor recreation areas.

I also believe that the arguments that Hill's Hill needs to be preserved for wildlife and from a climate change perspective are misguided. In my opinion Hill's Hill is an ideal location to provide public access to a recreational sport such as Mountain Biking.

Brett

Brett Lambert AIA, CPHC

Principal

Mobile: 781.801.0232

brett.lambert@stantec.com

Stantec Architecture
40 Water Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02109



The content of this email is the confidential property of Stantec and should not be copied, modified, retransmitted, or used for any purpose except with Stantec's written authorization. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete all copies and notify us immediately.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Rebecca Rodman](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2023 3:40:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

We live on summer street and often walk our dog through Hill's Hill. We enthusiastically support the building of a mountain bike park within the woods. Our children would have loved that when they were little, and we would like other Arlington kids and adults to have this resource in town.

We love owls too, and it's clear the barred owls who hunt in Hill's Hill will do fine coexisting with the bikers - they are used to humans, including the loud cars going in and out of the skating rink parking lot. Biking and construction of a track won't unduly disturb them.

Thank you,
Rebecca Rodman and Norm tenBroek
413 Summer Street

From: [Laurie](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:48:56 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,
Laurie Marden 155 Park Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476

Sent from my iPad

From: dawnh2006@gmail.com
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: Hill's Hill - No Preservation Funds for Habitat Destruction
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:43:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear CPA Committee:

Please don't approve Community Preservation Act funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at Hill's Hill without strong, written habitat protections. This application has major flaws including:

1. Expensive - \$400,000 is very high for a project while Town budgets are challenged and CPA applications exceed the available funds.
2. Destructive - Application drawings show a transformation of precious woods to a recreation bike park. No habitat protections are in the proposal at all.
3. Divisive - Nearly half the letters during community feedback opposed the bike park without major adjustments to protect the woods. Yet no protections were included in the document.

Let's ensure "Preservation" is a critical element in all CPA projects. There are very few woodlands like Hill's Hill left in town. Before funding this, we need agreement on how to balance recreation and preservation goals at Hill's Hill.

Thank you,

Dawn Hannon
Arlington Resident

From: [Christine Ann Dorchak, Esq.](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: please oppose Hills Hill development
Date: Sunday, April 02, 2023 4:20:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Fenney,

I am writing to you about the proposed opening up of Hills Hill in order to make room for use by mountain bikers. I oppose this idea for several reasons, and at a minimum ask that a true cost-benefit and environmental study of all relevant factors be performed.

My concerns include:

1. The proposed project will disturb the natural woodlands now providing safe harbor for local wildlife, including owls and foxes. Now is the time to spend available resources on the restoration and protection of precious habitat, not the opposite.
2. Proponents have claimed that there would only be *slight* modifications to the land in order to create a mountain biking platform and opponents have apparently been told they are overreacting. But the very opening up of the woods and the necessary take down of trees to carve out a pathway for heavy machinery and construction vehicles to enter the wooded area belies this claim.

Then, the creation of synthetic pathways and a pump station will permanently stain the natural environment. We need less concrete -- not more -- in Arlington and this project represents a step in the wrong direction.

I would also note that logically speaking, the changes necessary to effect this project can not accurately be described as slight given its high price tag.

3. As referenced above, the cost of the project is apparently many times more than has been spent in surrounding communities, where there are already mountain biking opportunities. Our tax dollars can be spent in a much better way.
4. The town is hardly in a position to risk the liability issues that would ensue from injured mountain bikers. Unlike walking or running, bird watching or other activities, mountain biking is an inherently dangerous activity so it is reasonable to assume that, in the absence of employing the equivalent of a full-time lifeguard, unmonitored children and others may be hurt and then sue the town for damages.

5. That said, the number of potential users is far outweighed by the unavoidable environmental harm. Those that do in fact engage in mountain biking have easy access to mountain bike platforms that have already been erected in the local area.

Finally, I ask that you consider the needs of the many over the wants of the few in this case. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Respectfully,

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
11A Lakeview Street
Arlington, MA 02476

From: [Julia Matthews](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us; jwayman@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: [Joe Connelly](#)
Subject: Letter in support of Hill's Hill bike park
Date: Monday, April 03, 2023 8:12:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Greetings-

I am writing again to voice my support for the mountain bike park proposed for Hill's Hill. I listened with interest to the Select Board Meeting this evening.

Our community should be impressed and support an idea that came from Ottoson and AHS students during COVID - a positive contribution by our youth at such a challenging time for them and our community.

The original purpose for Hill's Hill was for youth recreation; returning this small parcel (half the size of a standard baseball field) to its original mission is in alignment with the town's values.

We know that exercise and access to nature are some of the best ways to improve the mental health of teens. Given the current crisis in youth mental health, Arlington has the opportunity to show its support for our youth in a visible way.

Finally, mountain biking is a low-impact way for all ages to enjoy nature. It doesn't cost a lot and allows kids to be independent by accessing it via the bike path.

Please vote in support of Hill's Hill and provide another healthy outlet for the children of our town.

Best,
Julia Matthews
parent of Ottoson and AHS students
119 High Haith Road
Arlington 02476

From: [Michael Brown](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Sunday, March 05, 2023 1:03:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I'm a resident of Arlington and live right nearby on Ronald Road. I think the proposed MTB park would be an amazing addition to the neighborhood. I encourage the town to move forward with this project.

Best,
Michael Brown

From: [T. MacKenzie](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: Protect Hill's Hill
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 12:37:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Feeney and the rest of the CPAC,

I'm writing to you to protect Hill's Hill from further development. Establishing a mountain bike park at Hill's Hill is detrimental to our environment and our already shrinking and in-danger native ecosystems.

Construction projects displace native species, forcing them into dangerous urban spaces where they will be harmed (e.g., owls) or cause damage or harm (e.g., field mice and coyotes). Many species of flora in the area take tens of years to establish, mature, and feed the critters that occupy the area.

A majority of Arlington residents want the woods to remain the same and be protected.

Additionally, Arlington residents already believe that there isn't enough being done to preserve our remaining greenspace, so why not take action now and protect Hill's Hill?

Thank you,

Tara MacKenzie
32 Central Street, Arlington

From: [Jamie Kishimoto](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: No new mountain bike park on Hill's Hill
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 12:45:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the plans for building a mountain bike park in Hill's Hill. Arlington is a relatively densely populated town, with only 5% of the land being preserved woodland. Any new open space/recreation development should make preserving existing natural spaces one of its top priorities. Mountain bike parks are known to compact the soil, inhibit plant regrowth, and worsen erosion if not meticulously maintained. I enjoy outdoor recreation like mountain biking myself, but Arlington is not the place for this kind of development. Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Jamie Kai Kishimoto 32 Central St Arlington MA 02476

From: [Louis McGovern](#)
To: jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us
Subject: Hill's Hill MTB Park Support
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 1:58:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Give the kids a bike park!!!

Mountain biking is a great activity for all ages; kids especially benefit from skill, dedication, and land stewardship that mountain biking fosters. Also keeps the kids outdoors and moving.

- Lou McGovern Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julia Matthews](#)
To: [Jim Feeney](#); [Julie Wayman](#)
Cc: [Joe Connelly](#)
Subject: Letter in support of Hill's Hill bike park
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:12:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Greetings-

I am writing again to voice my support for the mountain bike park proposed for Hill's Hill. I listened with interest to the Select Board Meeting this evening.

Our community should be impressed and support an idea that came from Ottoson and AHS students during COVID - a positive contribution by our youth at such a challenging time for them and our community.

The original purpose for Hill's Hill was for youth recreation; returning this small parcel (half the size of a standard baseball field) to its original mission is in alignment with the town's values.

We know that exercise and access to nature are some of the best ways to improve the mental health of teens. Given the current crisis in youth mental health, Arlington has the opportunity to show its support for our youth in a visible way.

Finally, mountain biking is a low-impact way for all ages to enjoy nature. It doesn't cost a lot and allows kids to be independent by accessing it via the bike path.

Please vote in support of Hill's Hill and provide another healthy outlet for the children of our town.

Best,
Julia Matthews
parent of Ottoson and AHS students
119 High Haith Road
Arlington 02476

Hills Hill

jessewilliamsmusic <jessewilliamsmusic@gmail.com>

Mon 4/10/2023 10:02 AM

To: Jim Feeney <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning,

Just writing to say that i oppose the mntn bike development on Hill's Hill. I've been a resident of Arlington since '87 and paying taxes since '94 and while i love mntn biking I find other places in more rural areas to bike.

We should not spend our tax dollars on this. Also we need to protect our wild spaces! Let's not be Belmont... I know people who plan to move from Belmont to Arlington because of issues like how Belmont has sold off wild green spaces.

Thanks so much, Jesse